viz Signature

THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM™

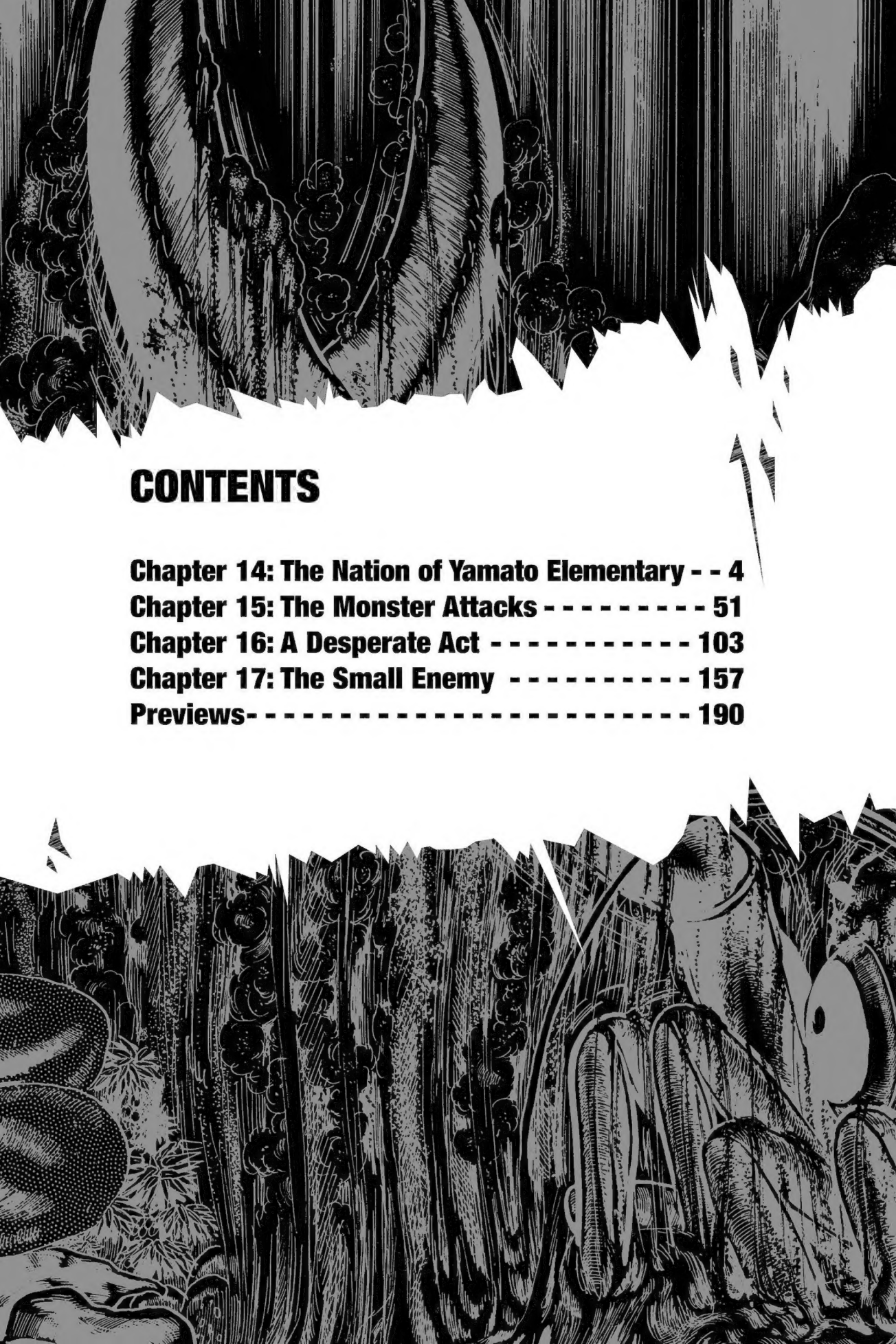
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

vol. 4

KAZUO UMEZU

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1936, Kazuo Umezu is Japan's most respected and influential horror manga artist. Umezu began his artistic career at the age of 18, creating stories for both *shôjo* (girls) and *shonen* (boys) manga magazines, and working in an amazingly diverse range of genres. In Japan he is most famous for the gag manga *Makoto-chan* (1971), but his most ambitious works are horror and science fiction, including *The Drifting Classroom* (1972-1974), *My Name is Shingo* (1982-1986), *The Left Hand of God, the Right Hand of the Devil* (1986-1989) and *Fourteen* (1990-1995). His works have been adapted into anime and live-action films.



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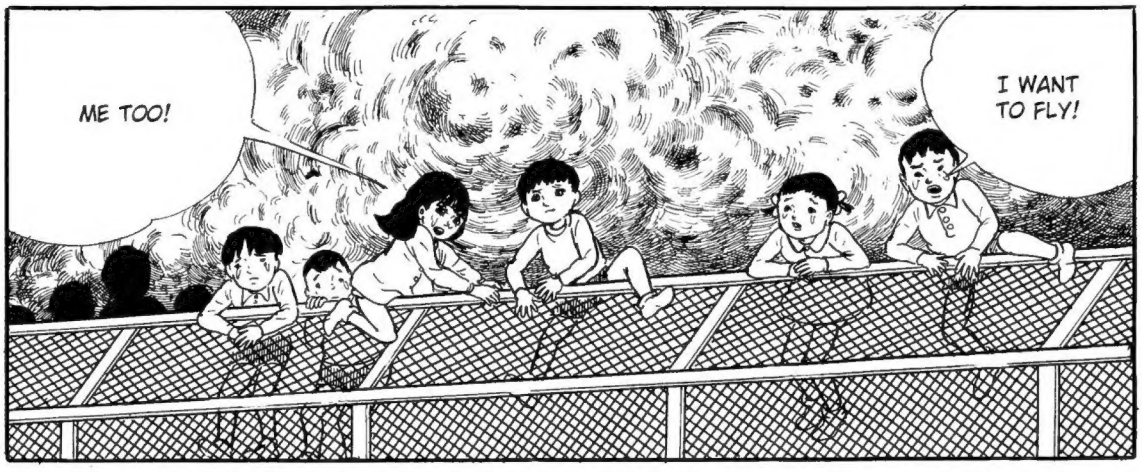
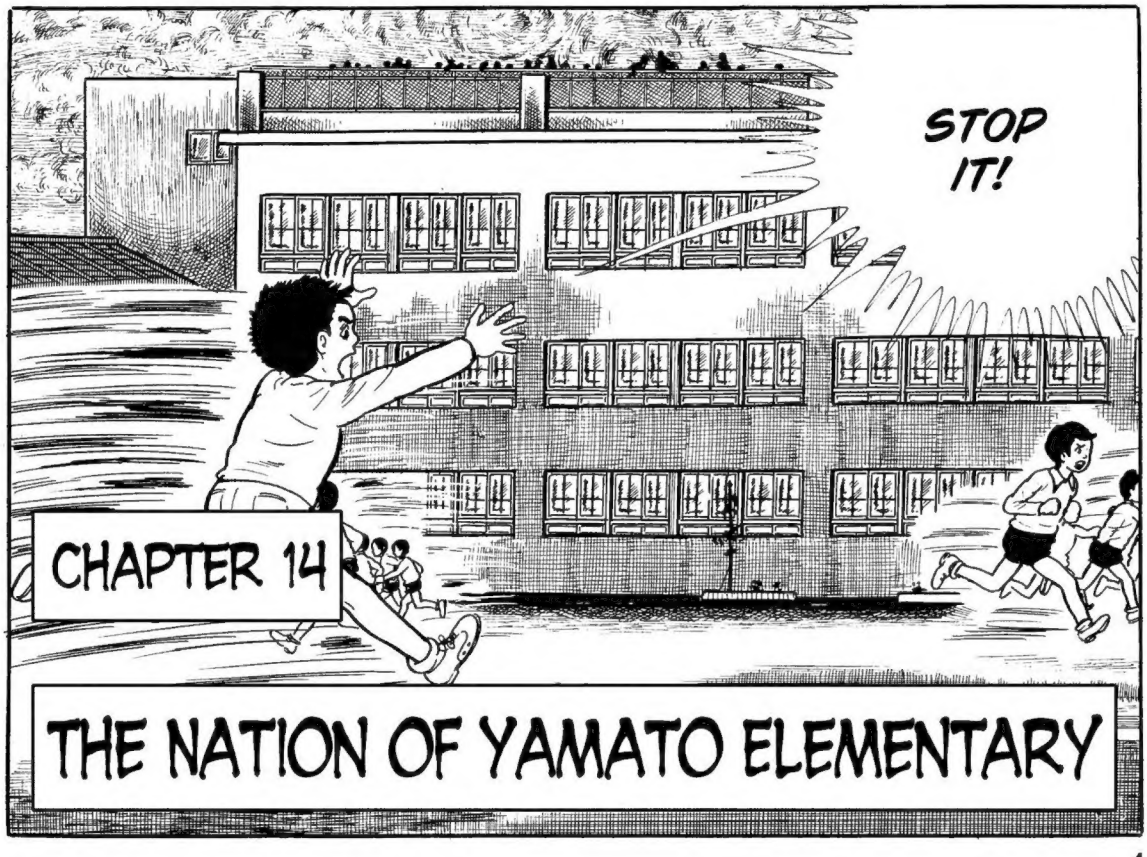
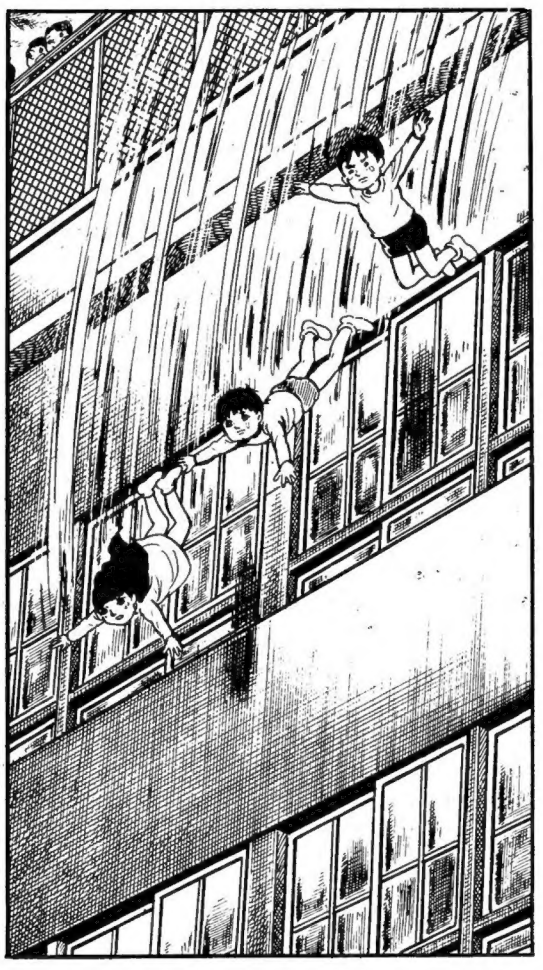
THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM™
vol. 4
KAZUO UMEZU

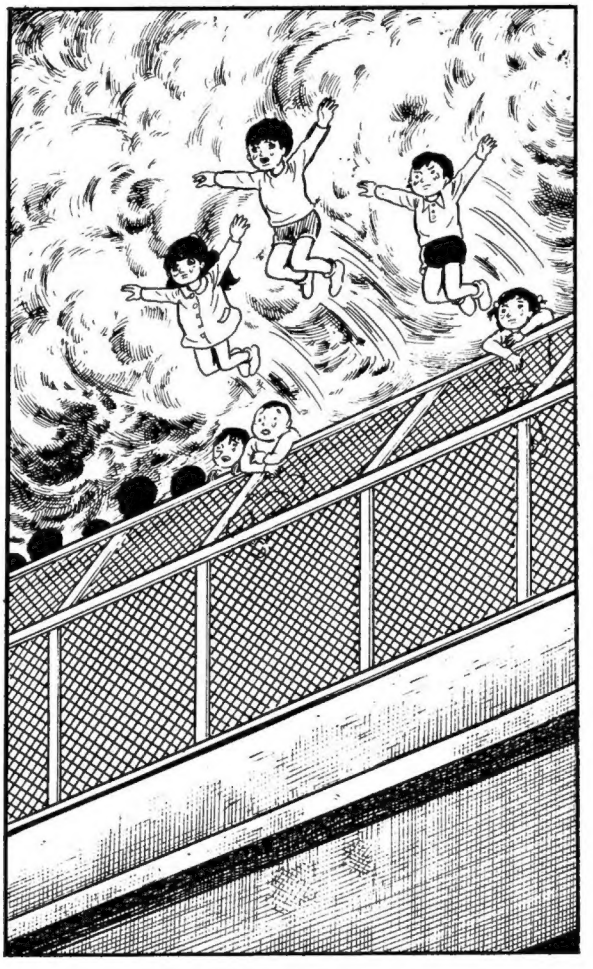
I'M GOING TO FLY LIKE HIM!

WE CAN REACH OUR MOMS AND DADS IF WE TURN INTO BIRDS!

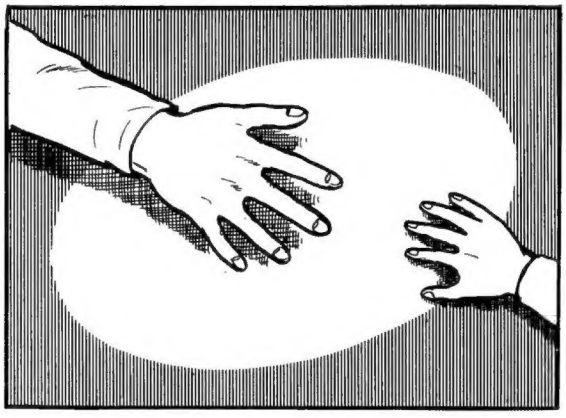

ME TOO!
I WANT TO FLY!


STOP IT!
CHAPTER 14
THE NATION OF YAMATO ELEMENTARY





STOP!

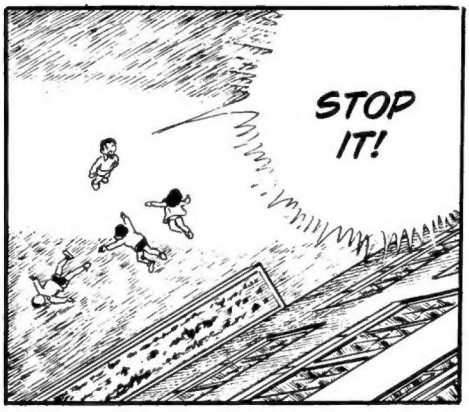


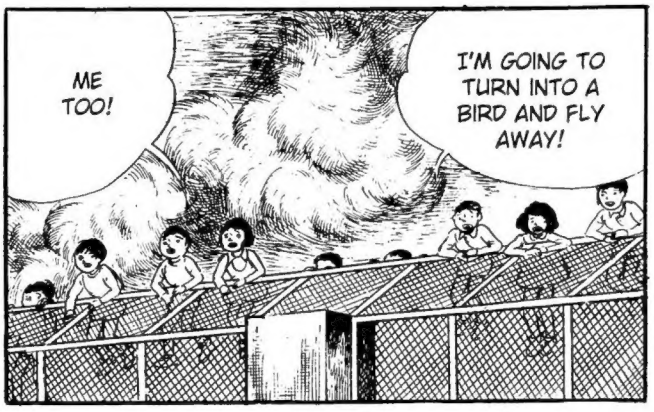
THUD
THUD

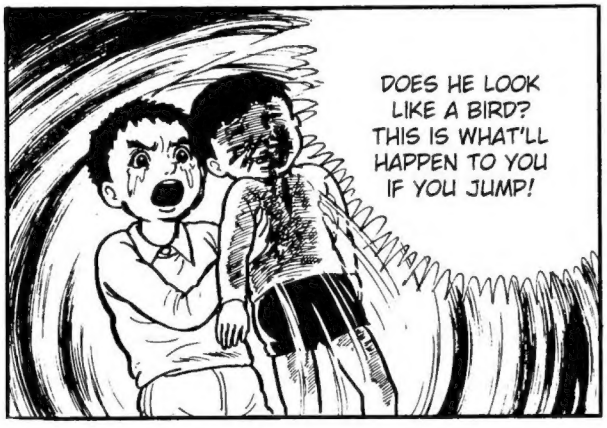
RRGH ...!

LOOK AT THEM! IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?!

STOP IT, YOU IDIOTS!

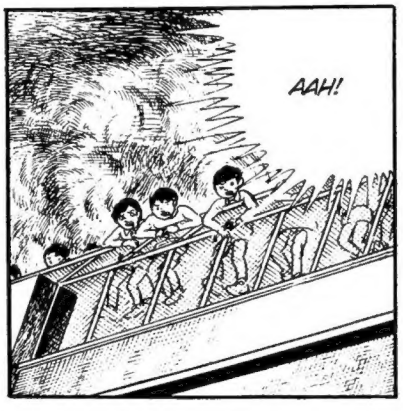

STOP IT!

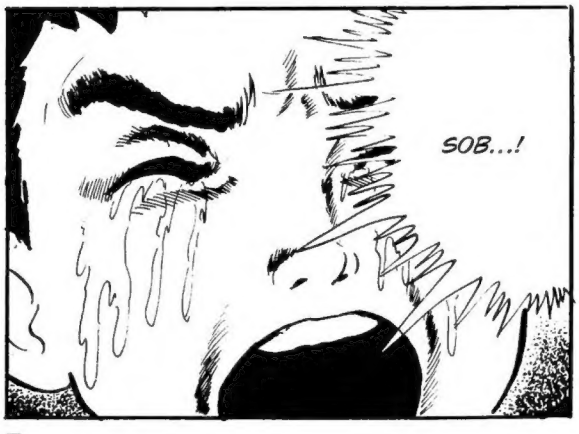

ME TOO!
I'M GOING TO TURN INTO A BIRD AND FLY AWAY!

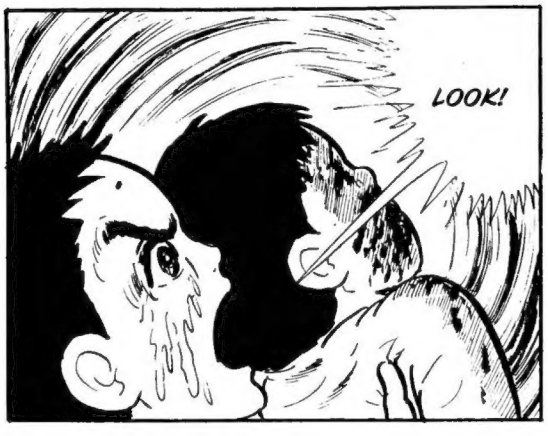

DOES HE LOOK LIKE A BIRD? THIS IS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU JUMP!

LOOK AT HIM!

LOOK!
DO YOU WANT TO BE LIKE HIM, FIRST-GRADERS?

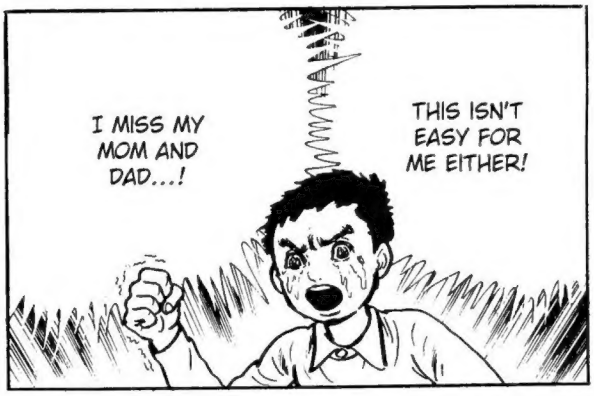

AAH!

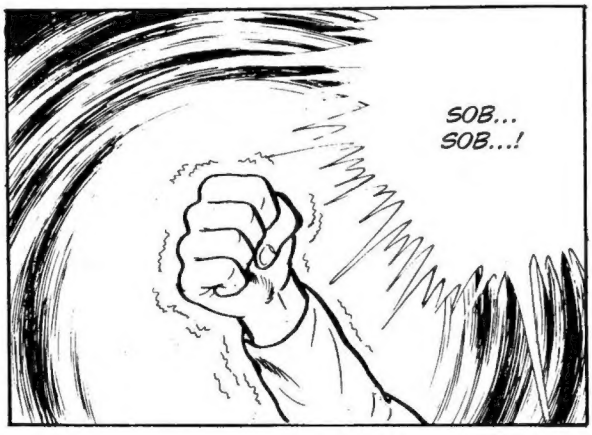

SOB...!


LOOK!

WE LET THIS HAPPEN BECAUSE WE WERE TOO BUSY FIGHTING!

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?


I MISS MY MOM AND DAD...!
THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME EITHER!

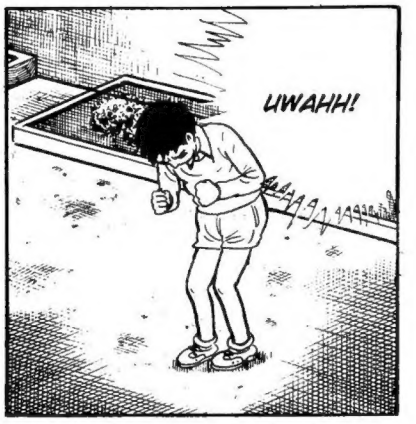

SOB... SOB...!

UPPER GRADERS, LOOK AT THIS!

IT'S OUR FAULT THAT THIS HAPPENED! ONCE WE START LOSING CONTROL, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO THE LITTLE KIDS!

SHO!

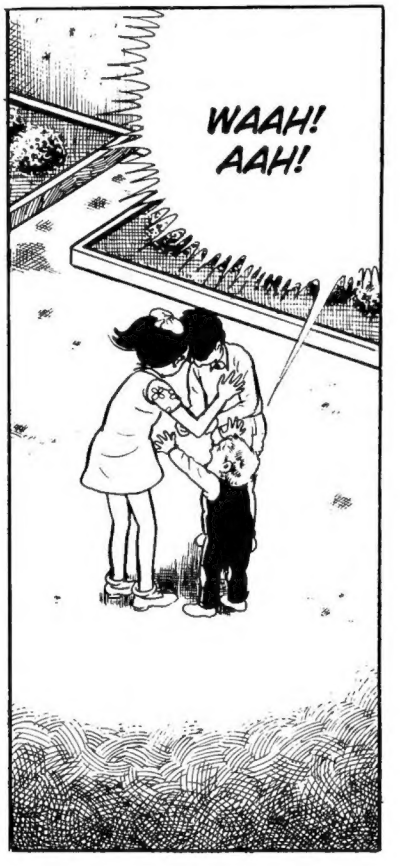
SHO!


UWAHH!

AAAHH!

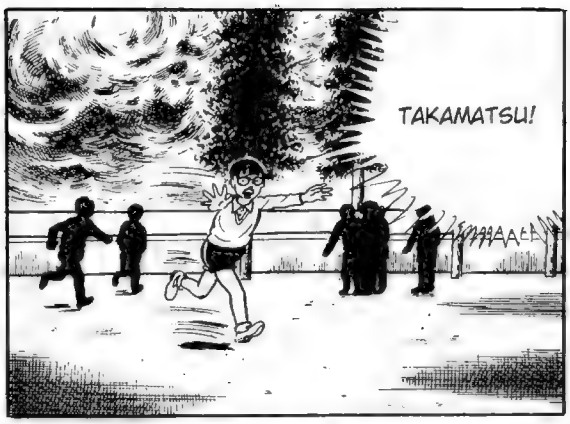
NNH...UNH...

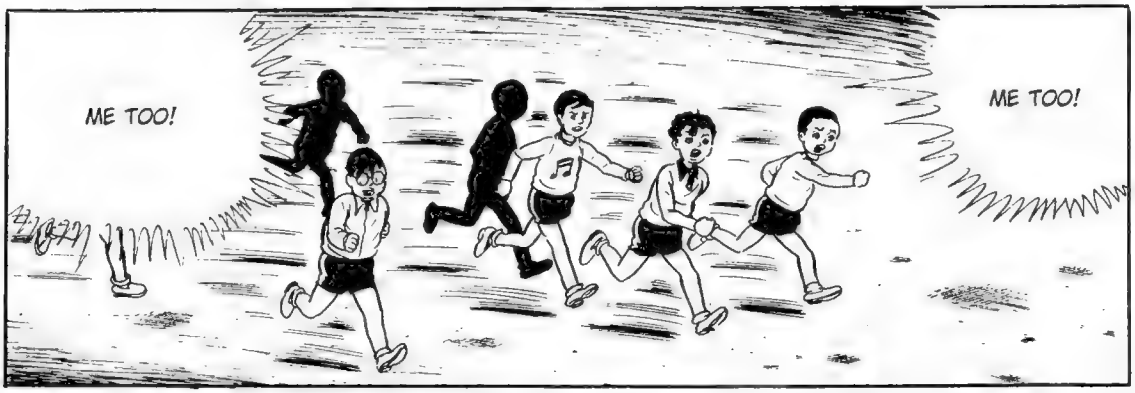
I KNOW YOU WANTED TO CRY FOR YOUR PARENTS TOO, BUT YOU HELD IT IN FOR THE REST OF US!
THANK YOU, SHO!


WAAH! AAH!

YOU PULLED ME THROUGH!
I WOULD HAVE FALLEN APART IF YOU HAD CRIED!

I'M ON YOUR SIDE TOO!


TAKAMATSU!


ME TOO!
ME TOO!

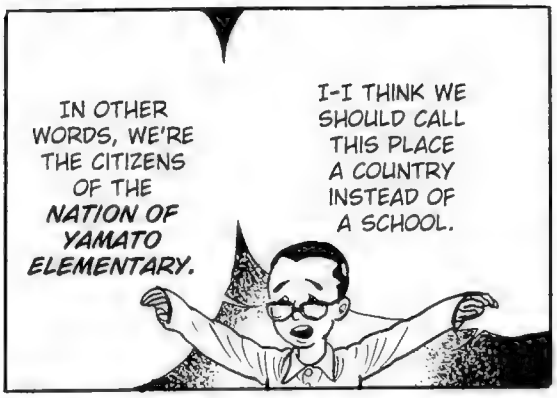
THOSE IDIOTS!
HMPH!

TAKAMATSU!

BAM
HAH!

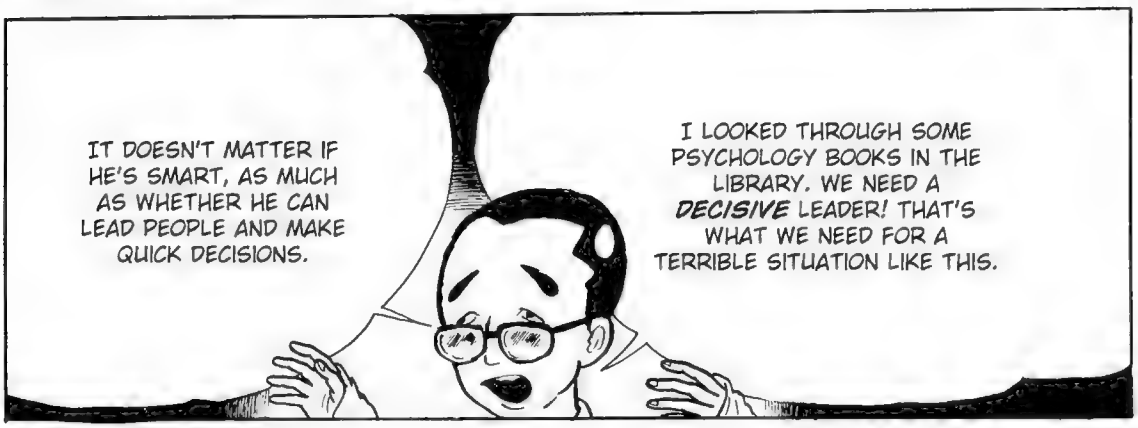
UH, UM, IT'S ME, GAMO. I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

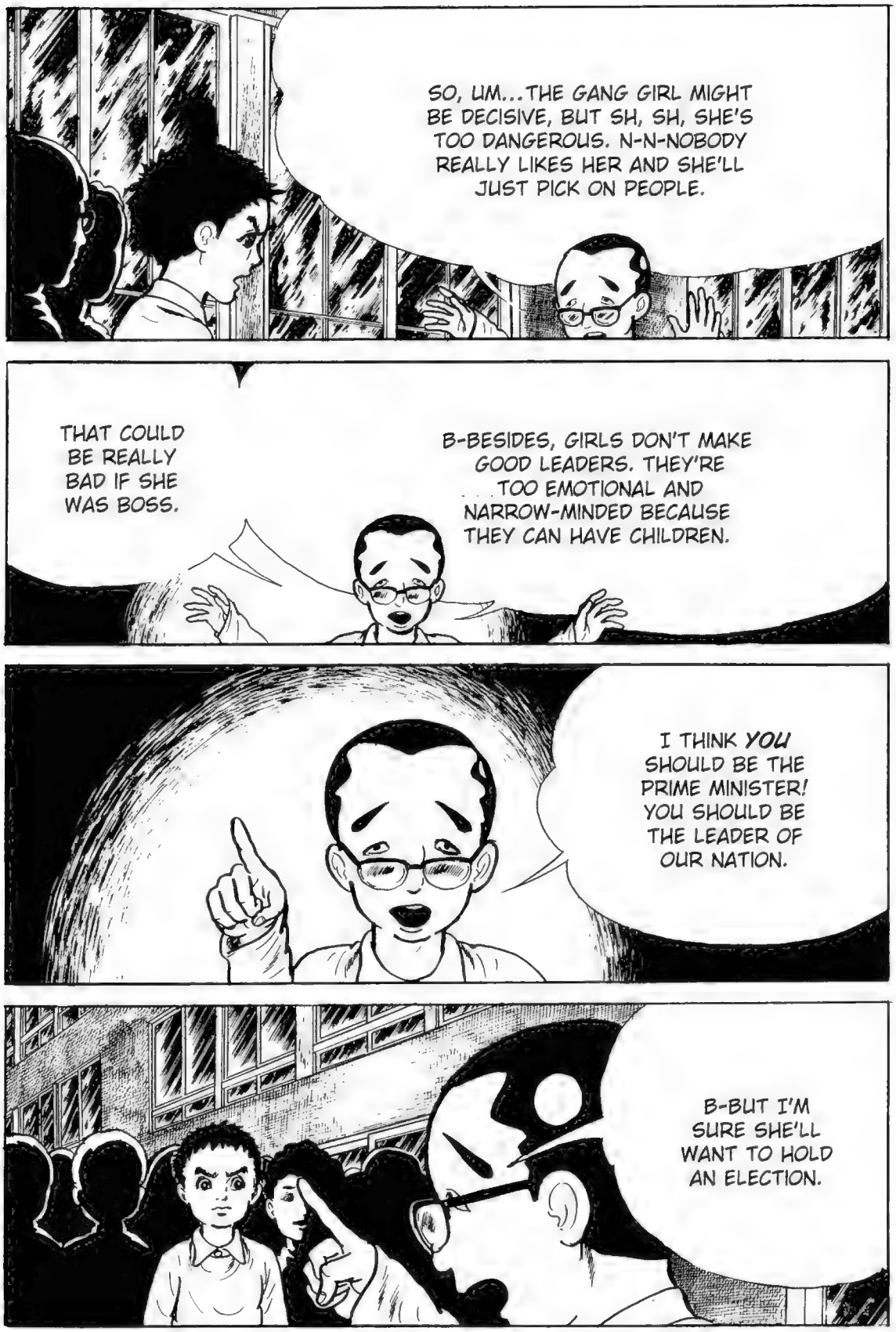
UM...AH... SH-SHO...!


IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE THE CITIZENS OF THE ***NATION OF YAMATO ELEMENTARY.***
I-I THINK WE SHOULD CALL THIS PLACE A COUNTRY INSTEAD OF A SCHOOL.

I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT TALKING TO PEOPLE, BUT I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE A GOVERNMENT TO KEEP EVERYBODY ORGANIZED.

OTHERWISE, WE'LL END UP FIGHTING AGAIN.
SO WE SHOULD VOTE FOR A PRIME MINISTER RIGHT AWAY.

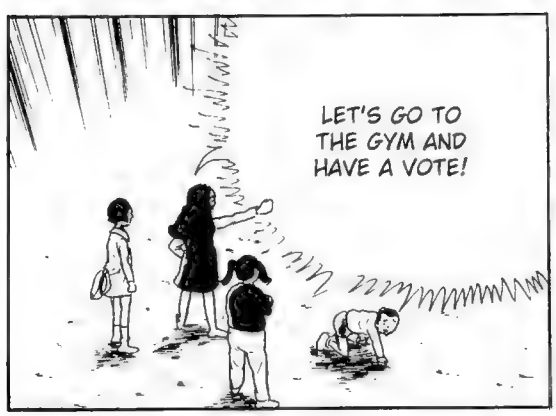

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S SMART, AS MUCH AS WHETHER HE CAN LEAD PEOPLE AND MAKE QUICK DECISIONS.
I LOOKED THROUGH SOME PSYCHOLOGY BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY. WE NEED A ***DECISIVE*** LEADER! THAT'S WHAT WE NEED FOR A TERRIBLE SITUATION LIKE THIS.

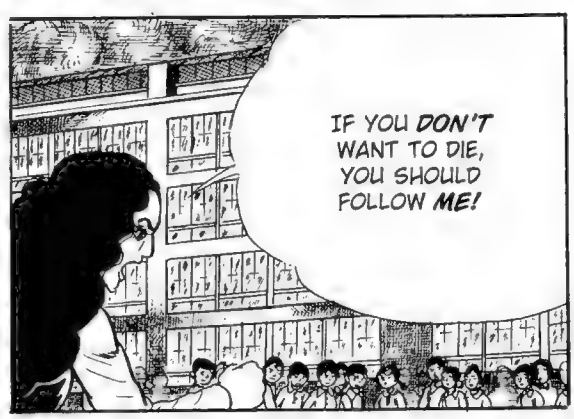

SO, UM...THE GANG GIRL MIGHT BE DECISIVE, BUT SH, SH, SHE'S TOO DANGEROUS. N-N-NOBODY REALLY LIKES HER AND SHE'LL JUST PICK ON PEOPLE.
THAT COULD BE REALLY BAD IF SHE WAS BOSS.
B-BESIDES, GIRLS DON'T MAKE GOOD LEADERS. THEY'RE ....TOO EMOTIONAL AND NARROW-MINDED BECAUSE THEY CAN HAVE CHILDREN.
I THINK *YOU* SHOULD BE THE PRIME MINISTER! YOU SHOULD BE THE LEADER OF OUR NATION.
B-BUT I'M SURE SHE'LL WANT TO HOLD AN ELECTION.

WE'RE GOING TO VOTE FOR THE SCHOOL BOSS!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE AN ELECTION!

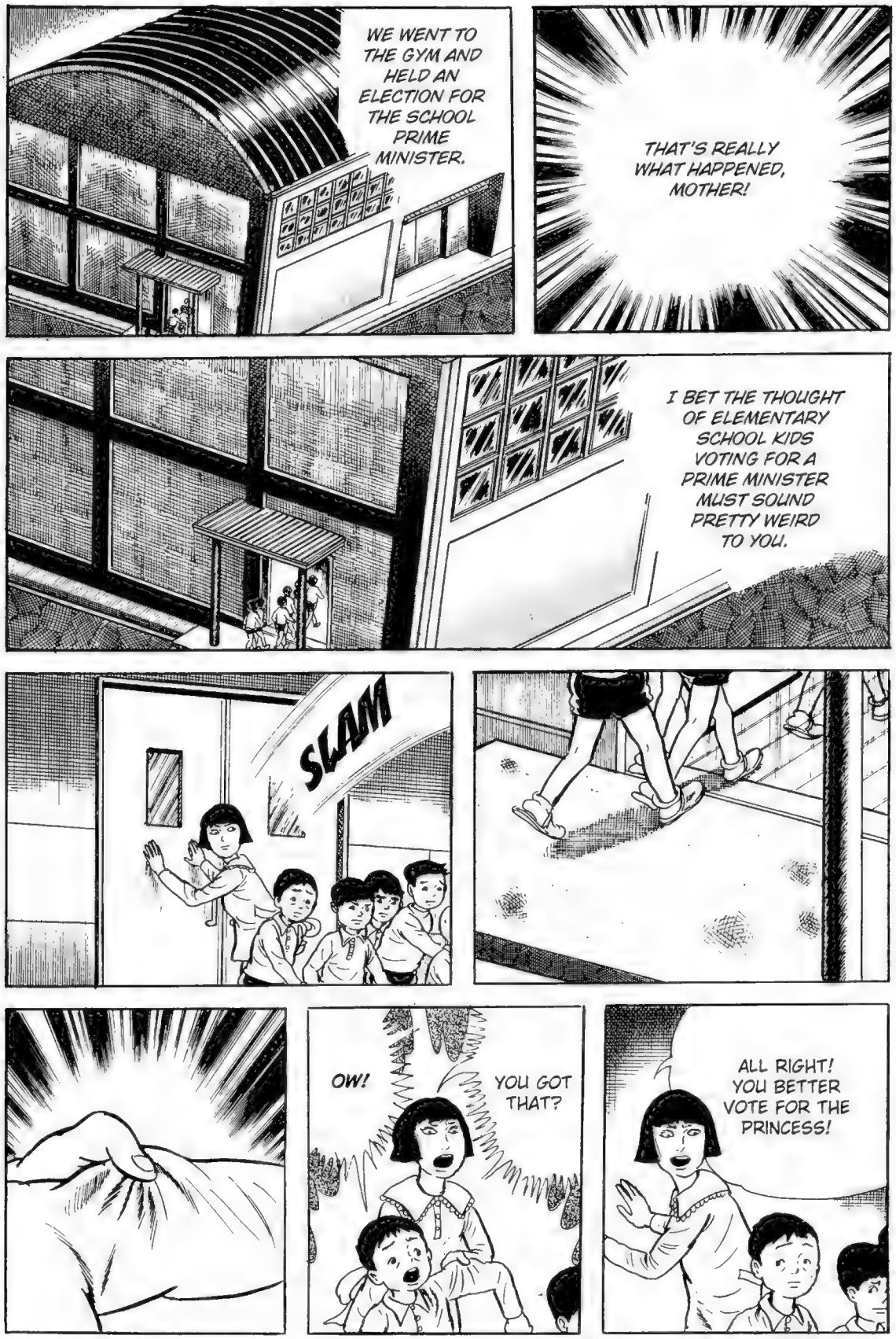
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE!

WHO CARES WHAT HAPPENS TO THE KIDS IN THE LOWER GRADES! LET 'EM DIE IF THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LISTEN TO SHO!


LET'S GO TO THE GYM AND HAVE A VOTE!


IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, YOU SHOULD FOLLOW ME!

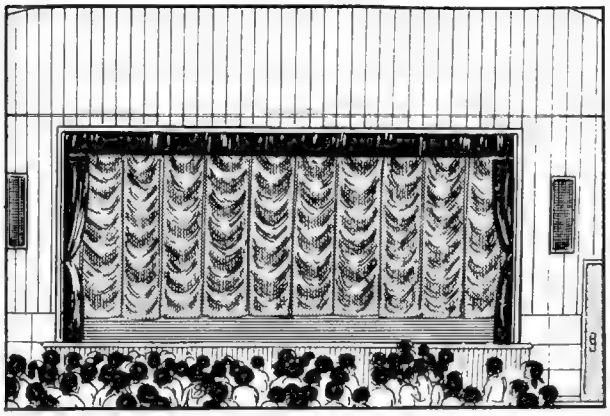
OKAY!
TOMEKO, HATSUKO, TAKE EVERYONE TO THE GYM. THE LOWER GRADERS TOO!


WE WENT TO THE GYM AND HELD AN ELECTION FOR THE SCHOOL PRIME MINISTER.
THAT'S REALLY WHAT HAPPENED, MOTHER!
I BET THE THOUGHT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS VOTING FOR A PRIME MINISTER MUST SOUND PRETTY WEIRD TO YOU.
SLAM
OW!
YOU GOT THAT?
ALL RIGHT! YOU BETTER VOTE FOR THE PRINCESS!

IF YOU DON'T VOTE FOR THE PRINCESS, YOU'LL HAVE MORE OF THAT COMING TO YOU.

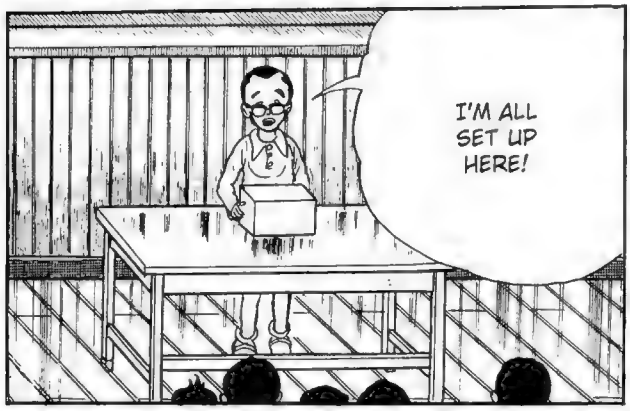
OWW! THAT HURTS!

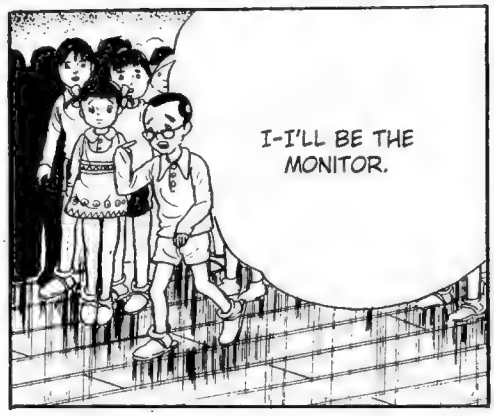
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE! VOTE FOR WHOEVER YOU WANT!

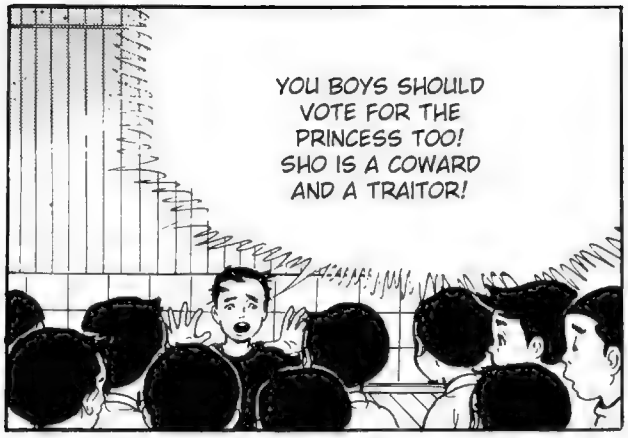


YOU! GET THE BALLOT BOX.

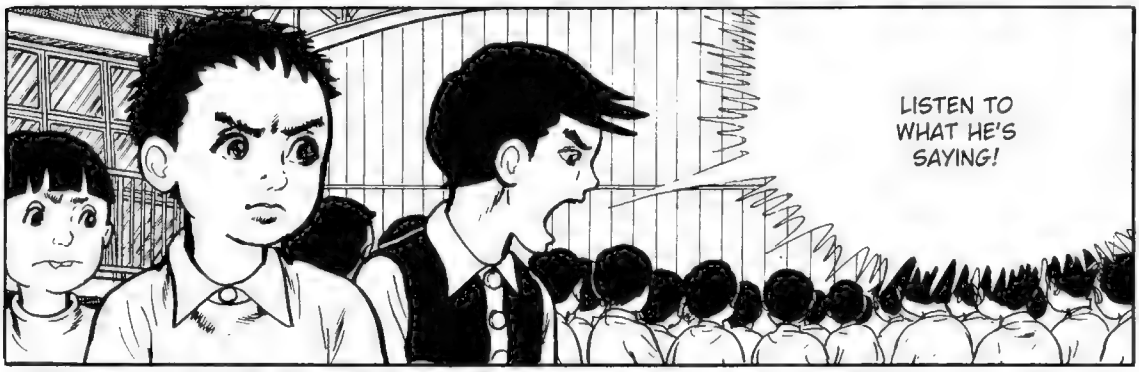
BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT ME FOR YOUR ENEMY YOU BETTER VOTE FOR ME!


I'M ALL SET UP HERE!


I-I'LL BE THE MONITOR.


YOU BOYS SHOULD VOTE FOR THE PRINCESS TOO! SHO IS A COWARD AND A TRAITOR!

YOU BETTER VOTE FOR THE PRINCESS!


LISTEN TO WHAT HE'S SAYING!

YOU BASTARD!

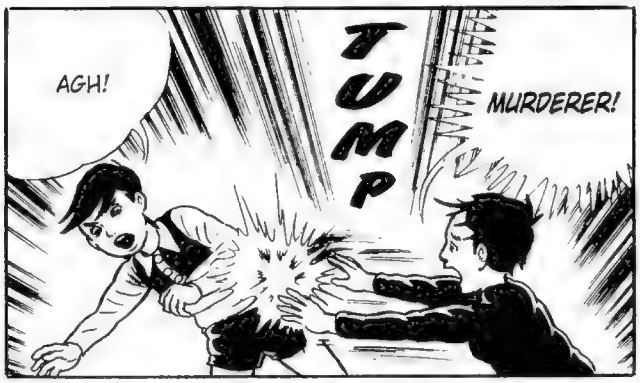
FORGET ABOUT IT, OTOMO.
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM!

WE HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE WHAT A COWARD YOU WERE!

AGGHH!

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE! THIS GUY IS A LIAR! HE ONLY CARES ABOUT HIMSELF!

WHAT?!
L-LET GO OF ME, YOU MURDERER!

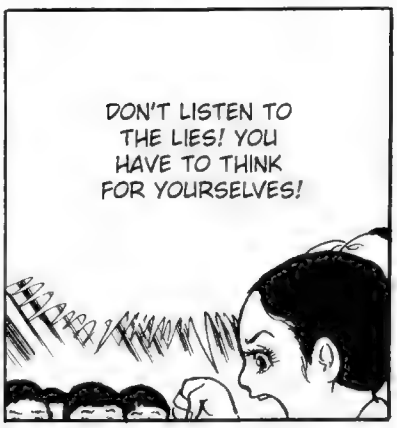

AGH!
TUMP
MURDERER!

DON'T TELL THEM!
STOP IT, OTOMO!

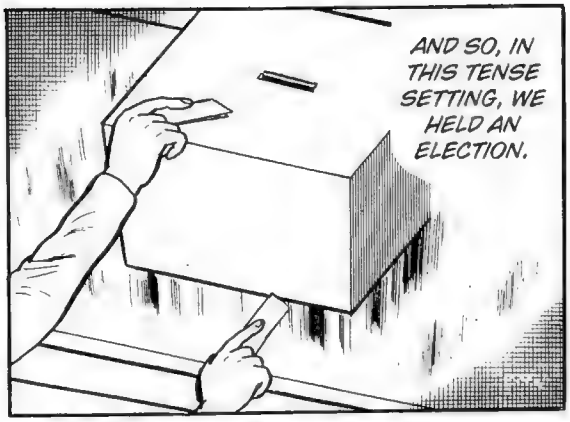
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!

OTOMO!
THAT BASTARD! HE KNOCKED ME OUT AND RAN AWAY!

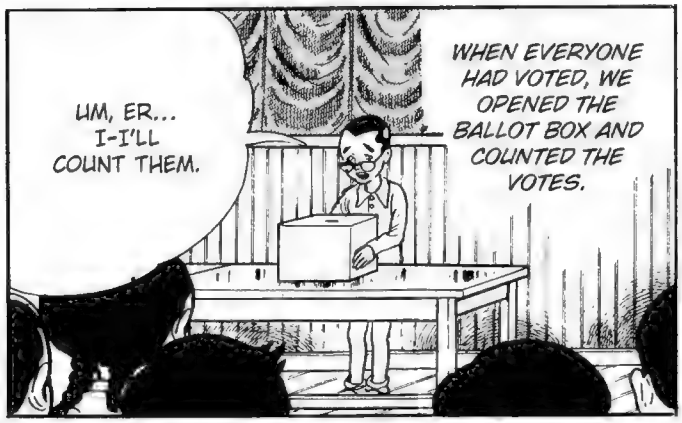
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?
THAT BITCH!

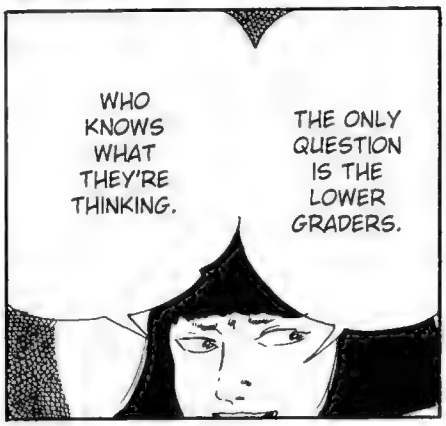

DON'T LISTEN TO THE LIES! YOU HAVE TO THINK FOR YOURSELVES!

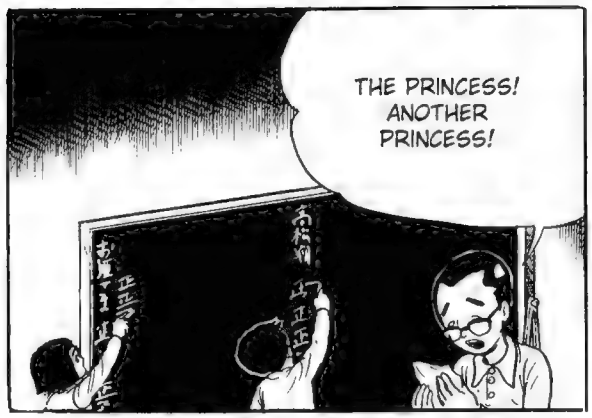
YOU ALL KNOW HOW GREAT SHO IS!

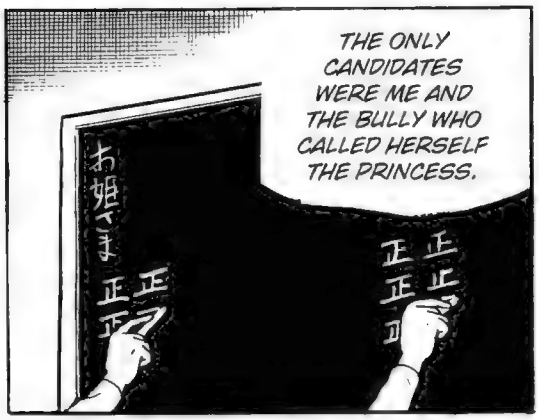

AND SO, IN THIS TENSE SETTING, WE HELD AN ELECTION.

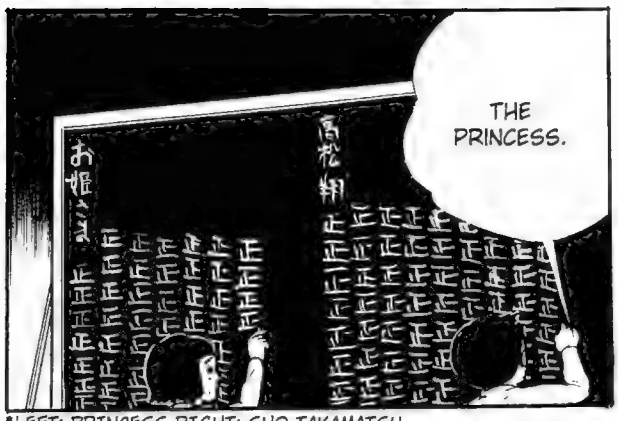
I'M SURE MOST OF THE BOYS WILL TOO.
DON'T WORRY, PRINCESS! ALL THE GIRLS WILL VOTE FOR YOU!


UM, ER... I-I'LL COUNT THEM.
WHEN EVERYONE HAD VOTED, WE OPENED THE BALLOT BOX AND COUNTED THE VOTES.

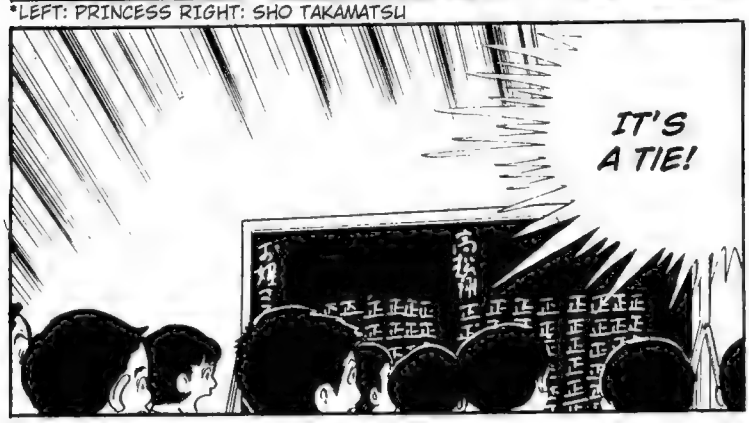

WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE THINKING.
THE ONLY QUESTION IS THE LOWER GRADERS.

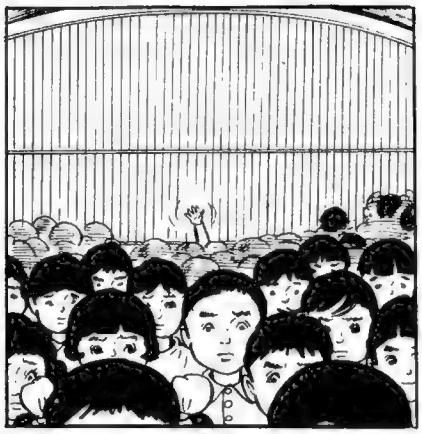

THE PRINCESS! ANOTHER PRINCESS!


THE ONLY CANDIDATES WERE ME AND THE BULLY WHO CALLED HERSELF THE PRINCESS.



*LEFT: PRINCESS RIGHT: SHO TAKAMATSU





I CAN'T WRITE, SO I DIDN'T VOTE!

IT'S ME...

GET OVER HERE!
WHO ARE YOU!?

WH-WHO DO YOU VOTE FOR THEN?

YOU DIDN'T...

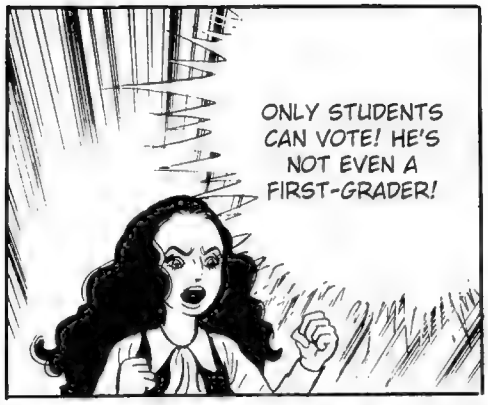
YU!

THIS ONE!

GO TO THE ONE YOU WANT.

HMPH!

SHO!


ONLY STUDENTS CAN VOTE! HE'S NOT EVEN A FIRST-GRADER!

HE DOESN'T COUNT!
THAT KID HAS NO RIGHT TO VOTE!

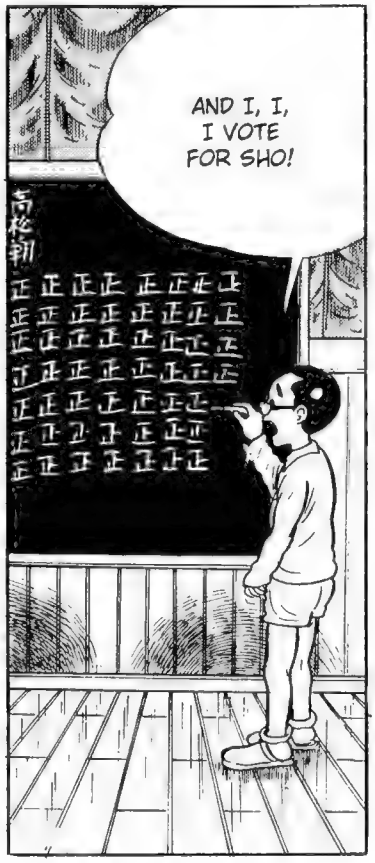
UM... I-I-IT'S ME!

WH-WHO!?

THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO HASN'T VOTED.

YAAY
YAAY

YAAY
YAAY


AND I, I, I VOTE FOR SHO!

YOU'RE THE PRIME MINISTER! WE WON!

SHO!
TAKA-MATSU!

ALL I KNEW WAS, I WOULD DO MY BEST.

I FELT A LITTLE NERVOUS. I HAD TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL...BUT COULD I REALLY DO IT?

THANKS!
IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT I'LL STICK WITH YOU!

I'M LEAVING!

FUCK THIS!

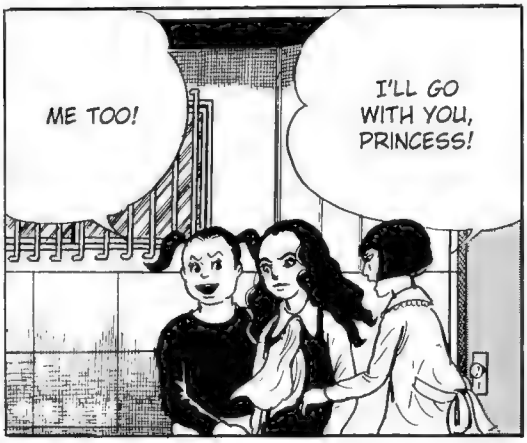
THIS IS YOUR ONE CHANCE TO JOIN ME!

I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE WITH YOU IDIOTS!

NO! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE SCHOOL!

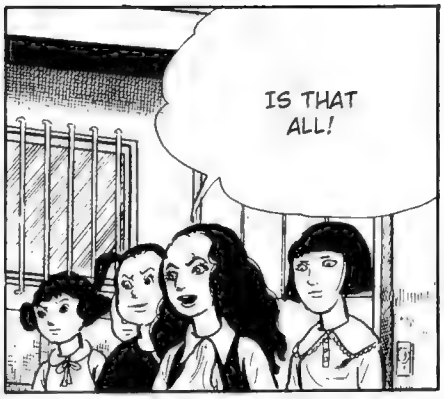
ME TOO!
I'LL GO!

ALL RIGHT, WHO ELSE?


ME TOO!
I'LL GO WITH YOU, PRINCESS!

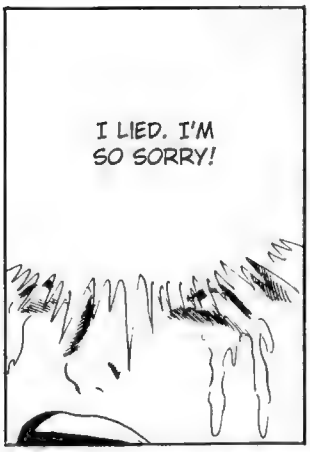
NNHAAA!

WHAT ABOUT YOU!?


IS THAT ALL!

I'M NOT GOING!

NO!


I LIED. I'M SO SORRY!

I WAS WRONG!

I'M SORRY, SHO!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, EVERYONE!

THEN YOU'LL REALLY BE SORRY!
YOU'LL SEE! INSTEAD OF ROTTING AWAY HERE, I'LL FIND SOME PLACE WITH LOTS OF FOOD.

YOU JERK!

WHUD

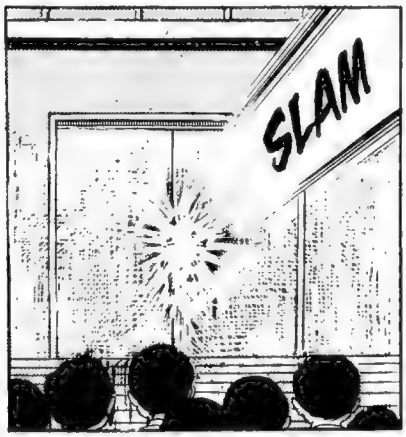
THOK
AGGH!
BUT IT'LL BE TOO LATE!

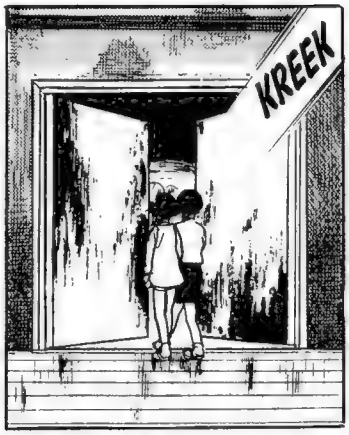
YOU'LL REALIZE WHAT YOU MISSED OUT ON!

WAIT!

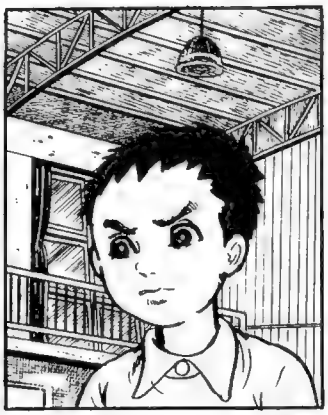
WE'RE TAKING OUR SHARE OF THE FOOD AND WATER!

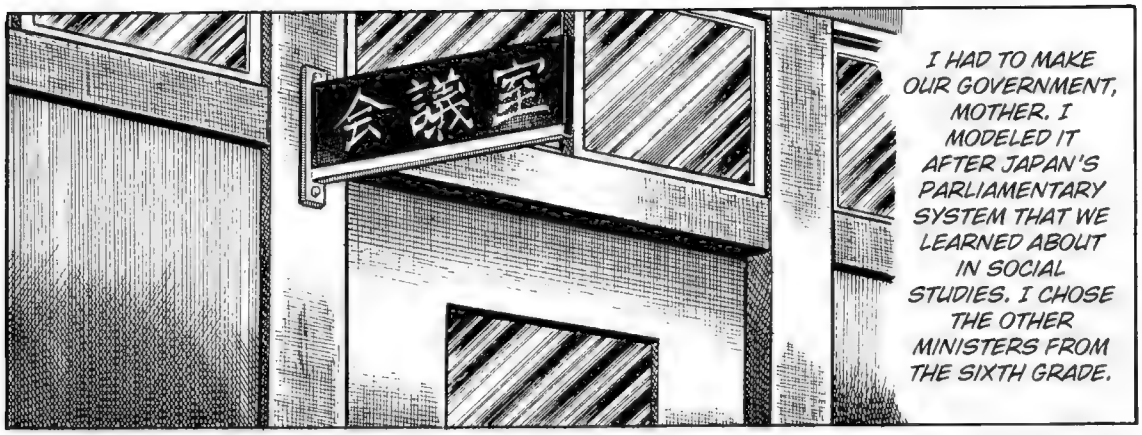
COME ON, LET'S GO!


SLAM

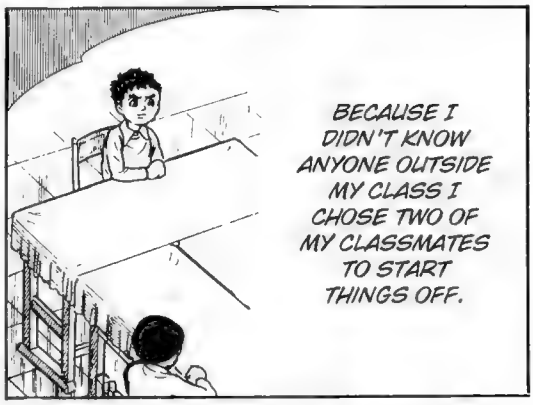

KREEK

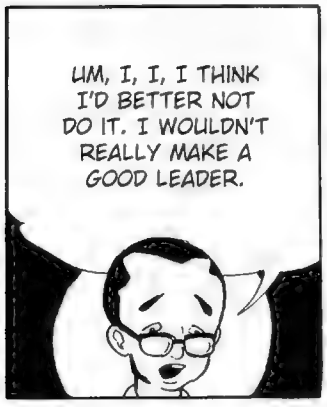
HMPH!

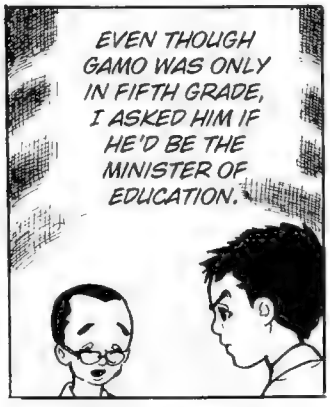


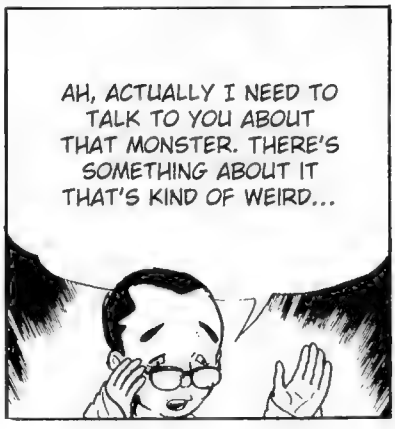


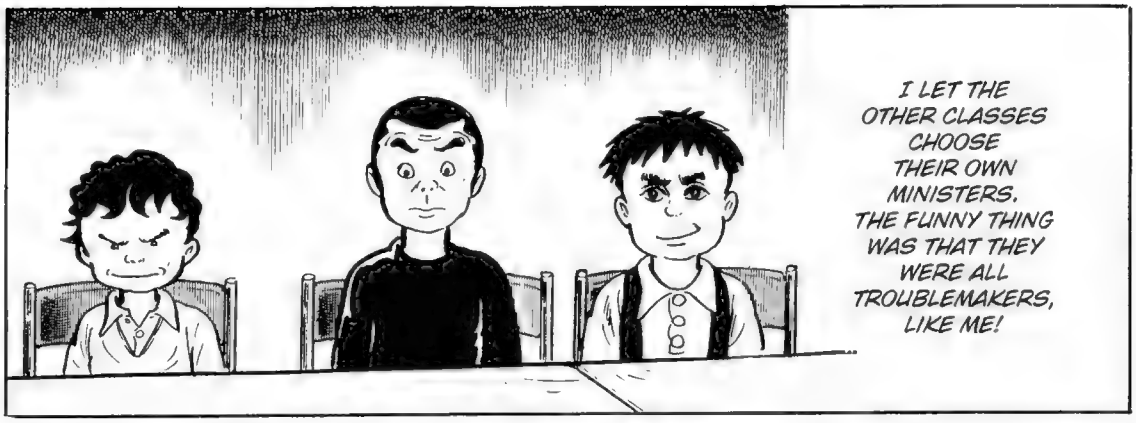
*SIGN=CONFERENCE ROOM










I LET THE OTHER CLASSES CHOOSE THEIR OWN MINISTERS. THE FUNNY THING WAS THAT THEY WERE ALL TROUBLEMAKERS, LIKE ME!

TELL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS!
THERE'S SEVEN OF US. LET'S DO OUR BEST TO LEAD EVERYBODY!

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT WE'D USE THE TEACHERS' CONFERENCE ROOM.

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
QUICK! I NEED HELP!

WHAM

H-HELP! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

HE'S SHAKING ALL OVER!
I DON'T KNOW!

WHAT HAPPENED !?

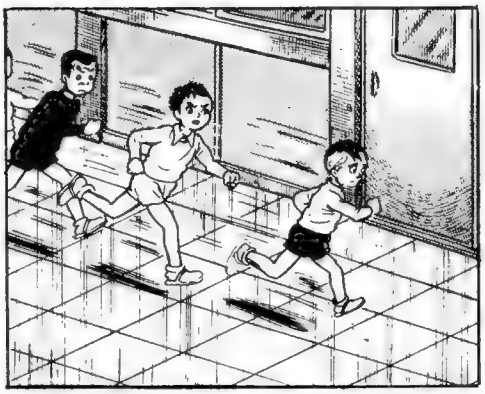
THIS GUY PASSED OUT!

HE'S RIGHT BY THE KITCHEN...

COME ON! COME WITH ME!

AH!

THERE HE IS!



WHAT HAPPENED !?

NNHH

WHAT'S WRONG!?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
WE MADE RICE PORRIDGE, LIKE YOU TOLD US. THIS WAY THE FOOD WILL LAST LONGER!
SHO, THE DINNERS ARE ALMOST READY.
PANT... PANT...
N-NOTHING! NOTHING'S WRONG!
PLEASE GIVE ME MY FOOD NOW!
I'M STARVING TO DEATH!
I NEED SOME RICE!
R-RICE...!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SHO? HE LOOKS AWFUL, BUT WE'D BE BREAKING THE RULES IF WE FED HIM BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE...
WHAT?!
NOW! PLEASE!
I NEED SOMETHING TO EAT! I'LL DIE!

UNHH!
HERE YOU GO.

NNHH!

WHAT!?
IF HE'S THAT HUNGRY, GIVE HIM HIS FOOD NOW!

GLUT
GLUT
GLUT

GRAB

I'M STILL HUNGRY! I NEED MORE!
MORE!

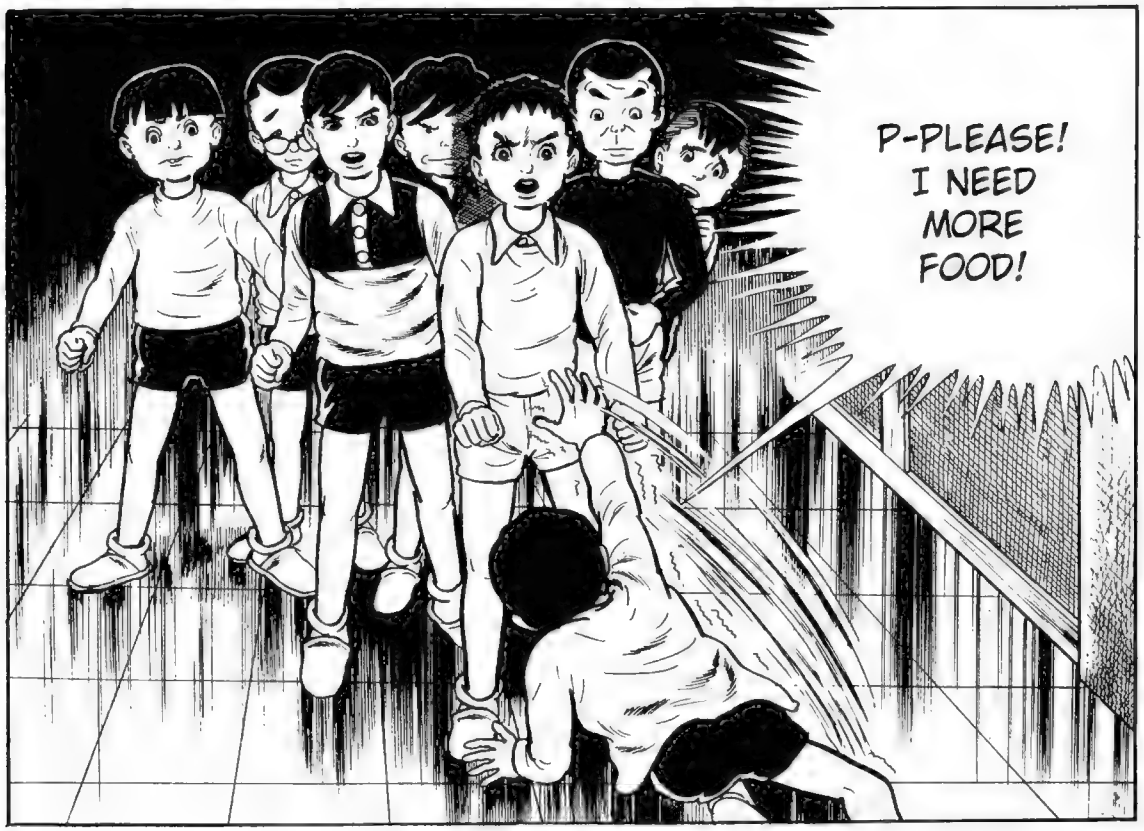
GULP
SLURRP

KLANG

AIEEE!

PLEASE!

LET GO OF HER!


P-PLEASE! I NEED MORE FOOD!

WE ALREADY LET YOU HAVE YOUR DINNER AHEAD OF EVERYONE!
BUT YOU JUST ATE!

I KNOW! BUT I'M SO *HUNGRY!*

THAT WASN'T MUCH. IT JUST MADE ME HUNGRIER. NOW I REALLY NEED TO EAT!

PLEASE LET ME HAVE SOME MORE!
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I'M SO HUNGRY!

WE CAN'T GIVE YOU THAT MUCH FOOD! YOU KNOW WE DON'T HAVE MUCH LEFT! YOU JUST ATE YOUR FOOD FOR TONIGHT!

STOP IT!

N-NO!

I THINK HE'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE STARVING!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM, SHO!

I-I'LL CONFESS IF YOU FEED ME!

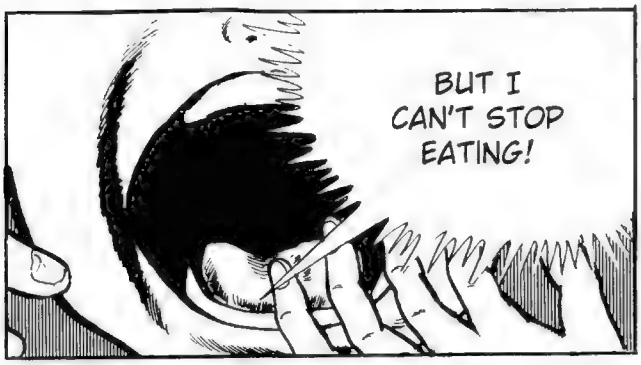
I'M THE ONE WHO STOLE THE FOOD IN THE STORAGE ROOM.

URGGH ...!
I REALLY AM HUNGRY!

I WAS SO HUNGRY I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF!
IT WAS ME! I STOLE IT!

IT WAS YOU?!
WHAT ?!

I ATE IT ALL!


BUT I CAN'T STOP EATING!

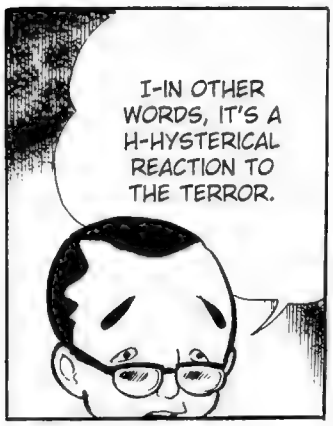
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?

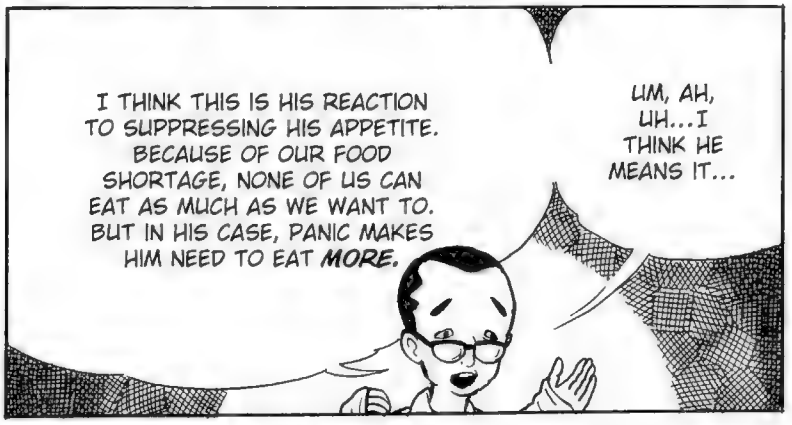
THAT WAS ENOUGH FOOD FOR TEN PEOPLE!
YOU ATE IT ALL YOURSELF?! ALREADY?

HOLD ON!
YOU WHINY LITTLE--

I CAN'T HELP IT!
PLEASE! I NEED MORE!

HE MIGHT BE TELLING THE TRUTH!


I-IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A H-HYSTERICAL REACTION TO THE TERROR.


I THINK THIS IS HIS REACTION TO SUPPRESSING HIS APPETITE. BECAUSE OF OUR FOOD SHORTAGE, NONE OF US CAN EAT AS MUCH AS WE WANT TO. BUT IN HIS CASE, PANIC MAKES HIM NEED TO EAT MORE.
UM, AH, UH...I THINK HE MEANS IT...

HIS APPETITE WILL BE INSATIABLE UNTIL HE GOES BACK TO THE NORMAL WORLD.
TH-THIS IS THE ONLY WAY HE CAN DEAL WITH IT...

BUT WE CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY MORE! WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH!

FORGET ABOUT HIM, TAKAMATSU!

PLEASE! PLEASE FEED ME!

DON'T SAY CRAZY THINGS! GO BACK TO YOUR CLASS! YOU'RE A FIFTH GRADER, AREN'T YOU?

THEN TIE ME UP! PLEASE!

HEY, COME ON!
HEY!
UWAAH!

NNHH!

GRAB HIM!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
I NEED FOOD!
NNAAGGHH!
WE SHOULD PROBABLY TIE HIM UP. SAKI, GET SOME ROPE!
OKAY!

UM, AH... W-WAIT! YOU'RE HOLDING ME DOWN TOO! I-I'M THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION!
NNHH! NNYAA!

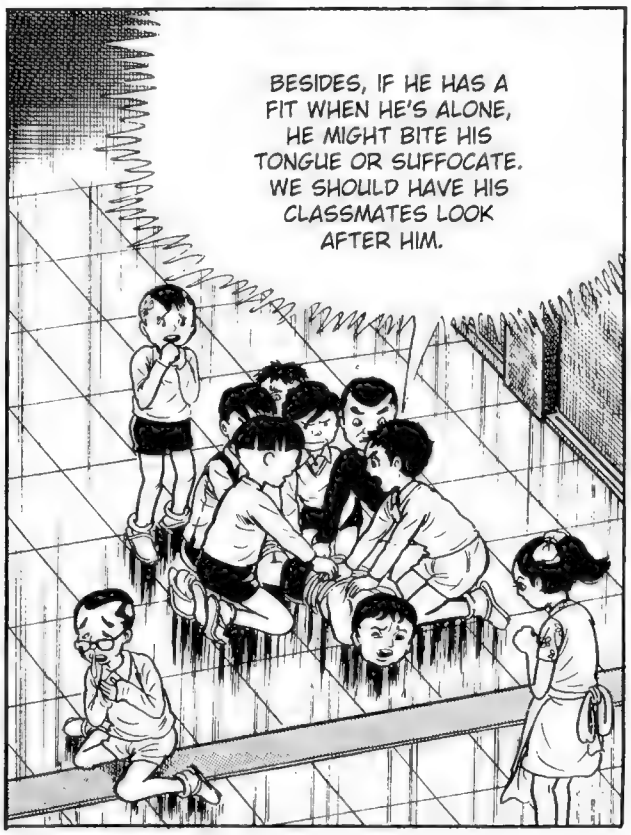
GWAA!

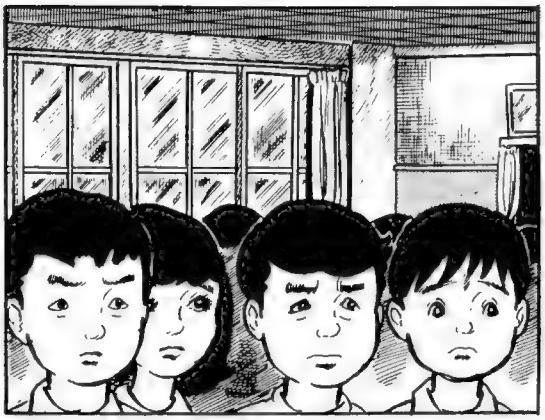
BUT IF WE LOCK HIM UP, PEOPLE WILL WANT TO KNOW WHY WE DID IT! THEY'LL FIND OUT ANYWAY!

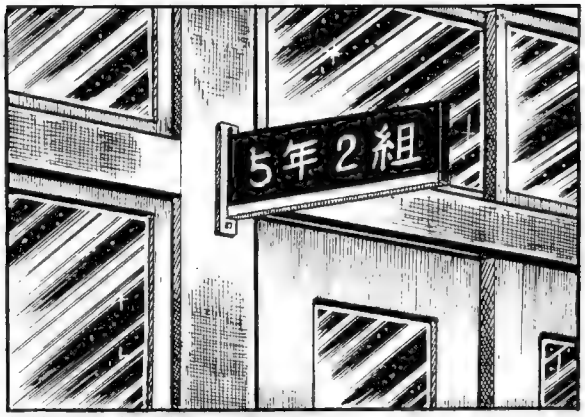
HUFF HUFF!
LET'S LOCK HIM UP! ONCE EVERYONE FINDS OUT HE STOLE THE FOOD, THEY'LL BEAT HIM TO DEATH!

LET'S TAKE HIM THERE!
HE'S IN CLASS TWO. I KNOW HIM.

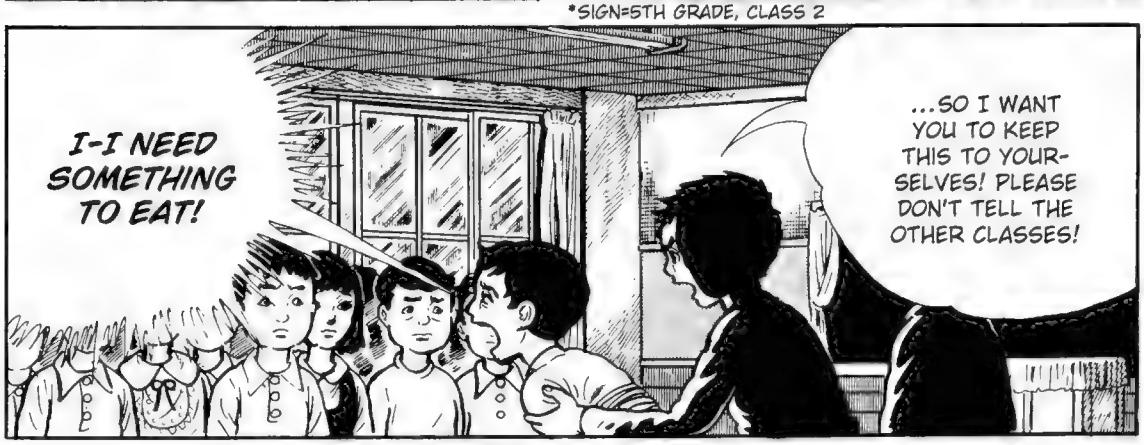
THANKS, SAKI!
I'LL FINISH FIXING DINNER!

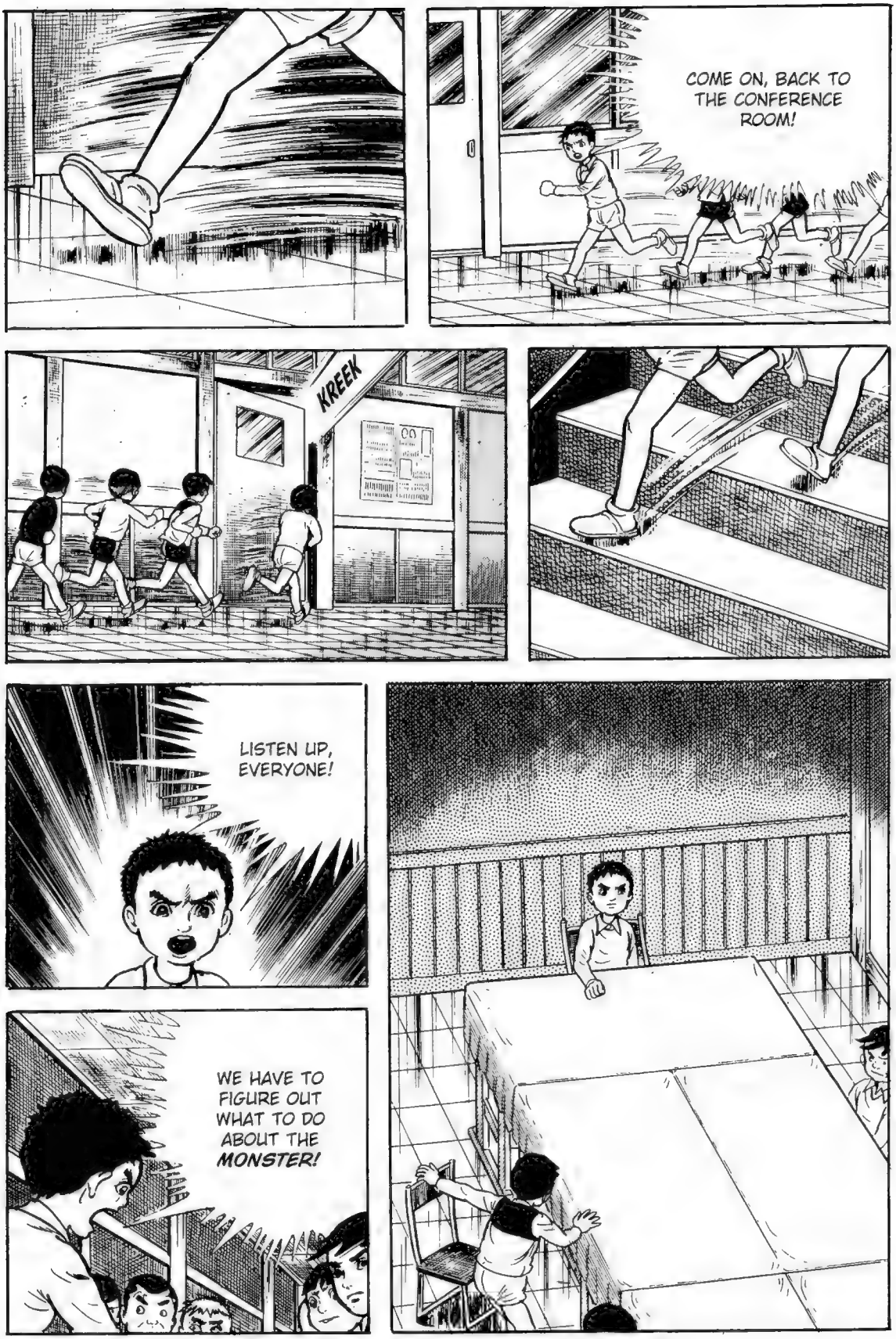

BESIDES, IF HE HAS A FIT WHEN HE'S ALONE, HE MIGHT BITE HIS TONGUE OR SUFFOCATE. WE SHOULD HAVE HIS CLASSMATES LOOK AFTER HIM.

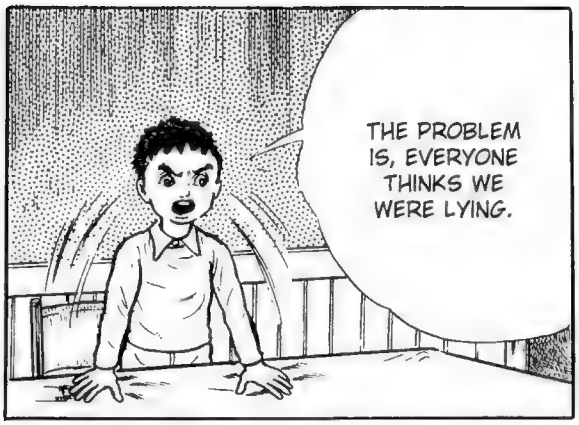




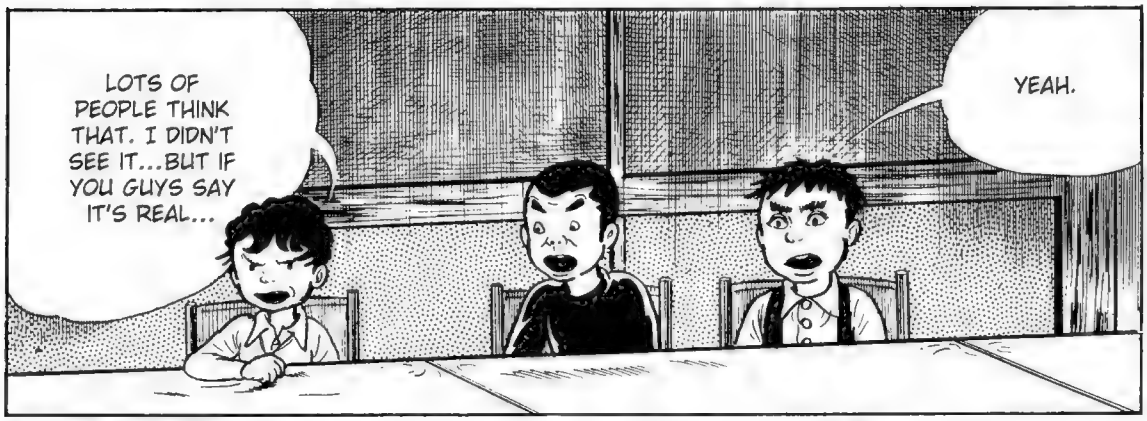
*SIGN=5TH GRADE, CLASS 2




COME ON, BACK TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM!
KREEK
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE!
WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE MONSTER!

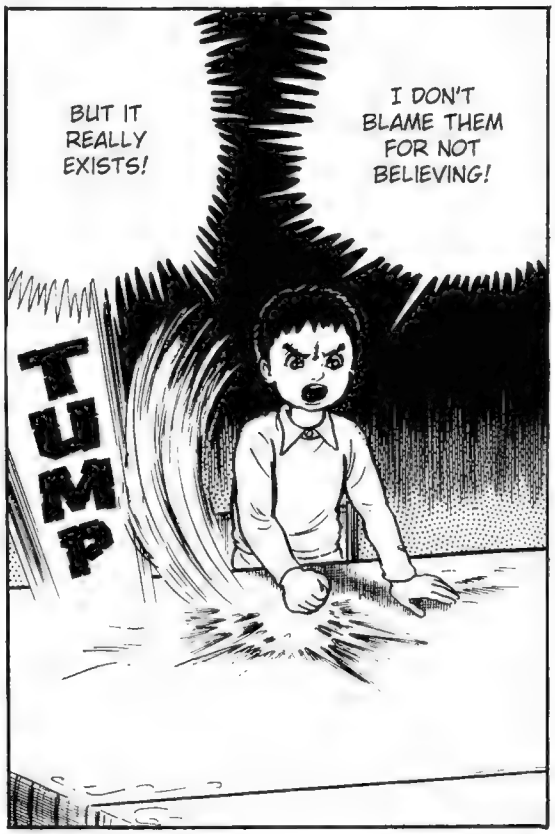

THE PROBLEM IS, EVERYONE THINKS WE WERE LYING.

YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WHAT?

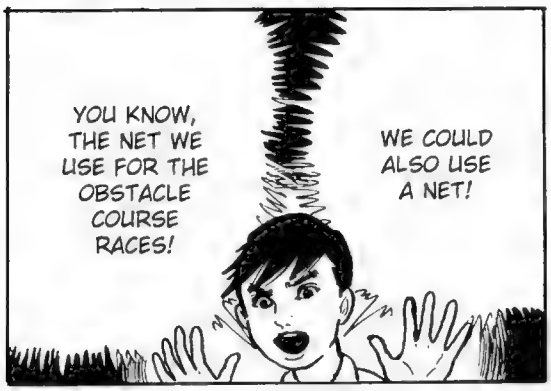

LOTS OF PEOPLE THINK THAT. I DIDN'T SEE IT...BUT IF YOU GUYS SAY IT'S REAL...
YEAH.

THE FOREST WHERE IT LIVES ISN'T FAR AWAY!

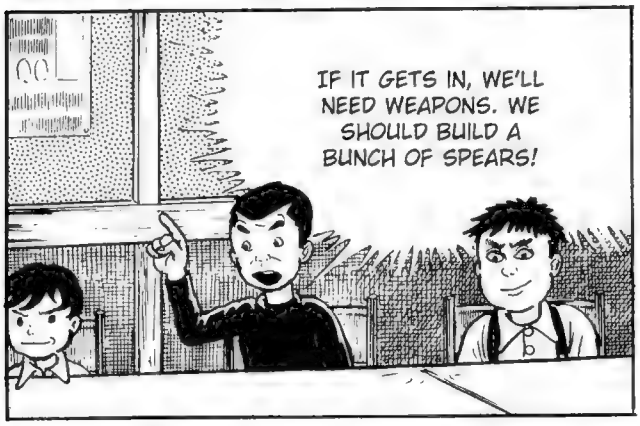
WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO KILL IT!
IF IT ATTACKS US WE'LL ALL BE IN TROUBLE!


BUT IT REALLY EXISTS!
I DON'T BLAME THEM FOR NOT BELIEVING!
TUMP

HOW ABOUT IF WE BUILD A TRAP?! WE CAN SET UP GIANT STAKES TO FALL ON ANYTHING THAT COMES THROUGH THE GATE!

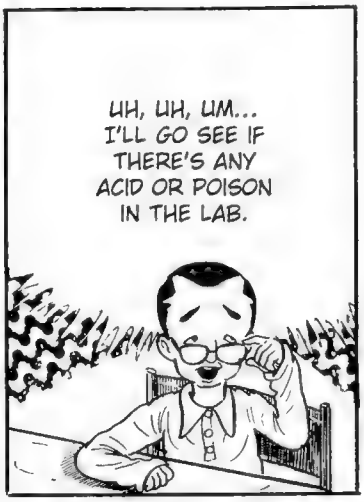

YOU KNOW, THE NET WE USE FOR THE OBSTACLE COURSE RACES!
WE COULD ALSO USE A NET!

SNAP
GOOD IDEA!


IF IT GETS IN, WE'LL NEED WEAPONS. WE SHOULD BUILD A BUNCH OF SPEARS!

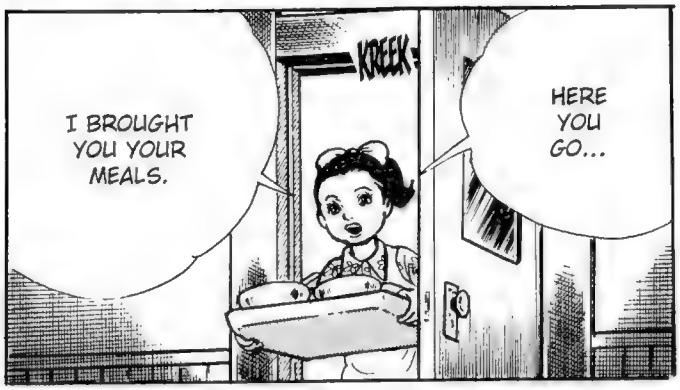
SNAP
THAT COULD WORK TOO!

...I'M GOING TO GATHER THE BEST ATHLETES! WE'LL SET UP A LOOKOUT!
SINCE I'M THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE...


UH, UH, UM... I'LL GO SEE IF THERE'S ANY ACID OR POISON IN THE LAB.

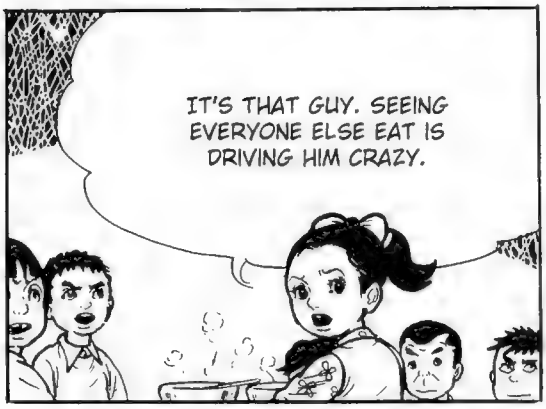
WHO IS IT!?
TUMP
TUMP

SINCE I'M MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION, I'LL GET PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD WITH TOOLS. WE'LL BUILD A STAKE TRAP THAT'LL KILL THAT THING!

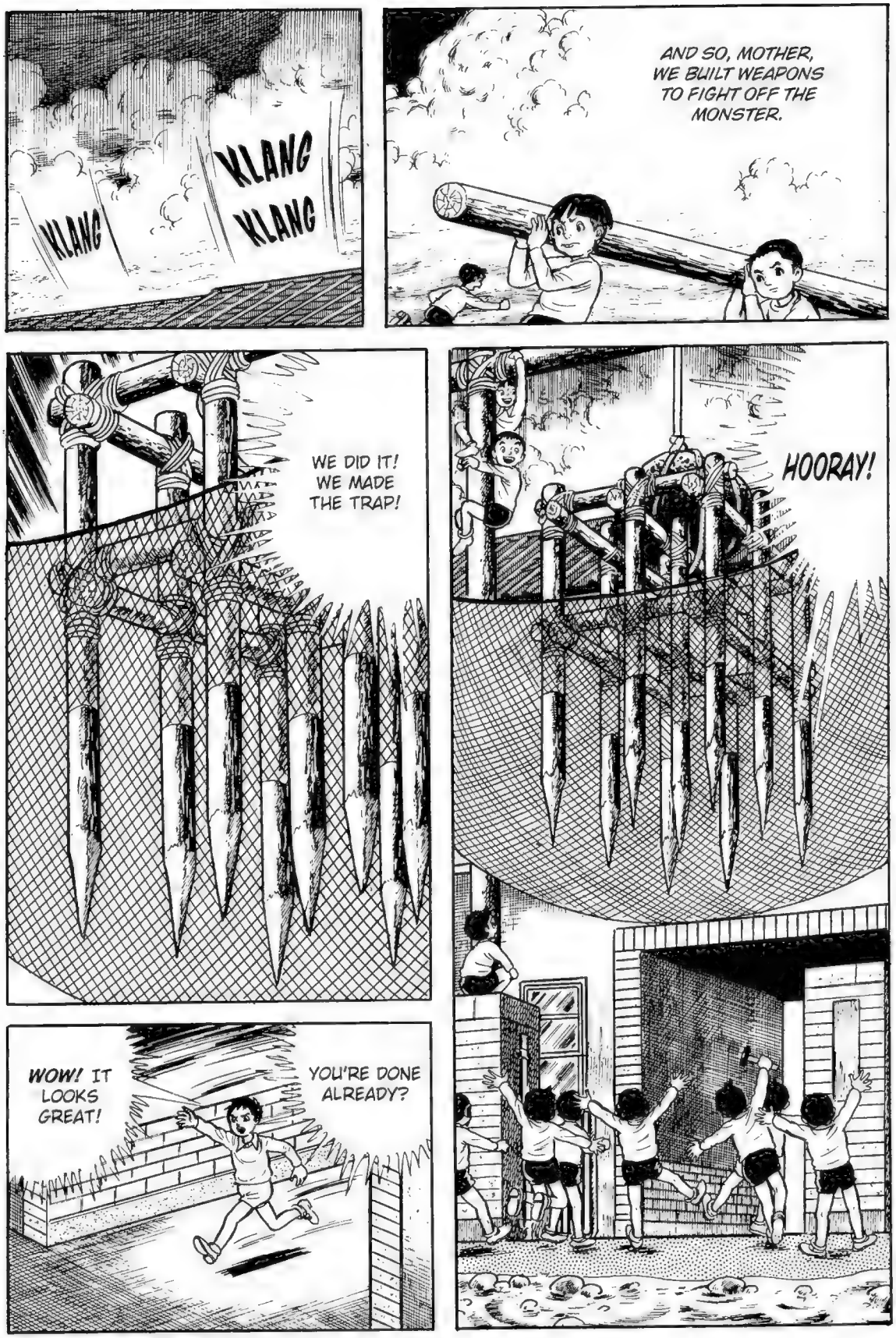

KREEK
I BROUGHT YOU YOUR MEALS.
HERE YOU GO...

IT'S ME, SAKI. CAN I COME IN?

UNGGH


IT'S THAT GUY. SEEING EVERYONE ELSE EAT IS DRIVING HIM CRAZY.

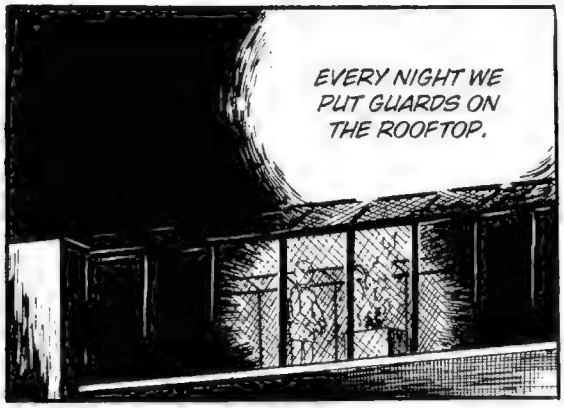
UWAAA


KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
AND SO, MOTHER, WE BUILT WEAPONS TO FIGHT OFF THE MONSTER.
WE DID IT! WE MADE THE TRAP!
HOORAY!
WOW! IT LOOKS GREAT!
YOU'RE DONE ALREADY?

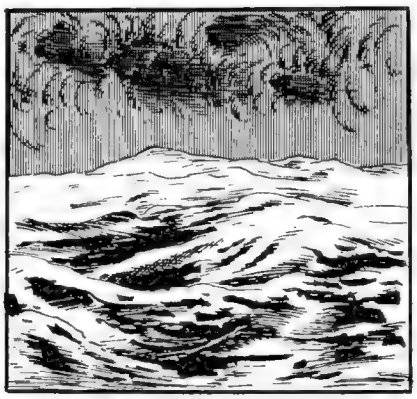
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

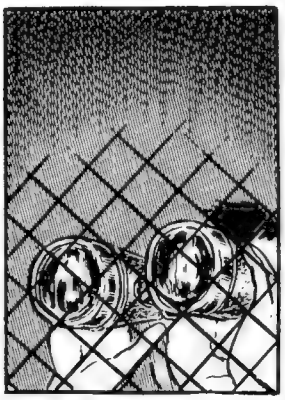
WHAT!?

STOP, SHO! THAT SPOT'S BOOBY-TRAPPED!


EVERY NIGHT WE PUT GUARDS ON THE ROOFTOP.

IF YOU STEP ON THE GROUND UNDER THE STAKES, THEY'LL FALL ON TOP OF YOU! IT TOOK AGES TO SET IT UP!





BUT THE MONSTER DIDN'T SHOW UP THE NEXT DAY...OR THE DAY AFTER THAT.

STILL ?!
THEY'RE SAYING WE LIED ABOUT THE MONSTER!

HUH?
PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO SAY STUFF.

SHO...

HUH ?!
THAT STARVING KID ESCAPED!
SAKI!
SHO! OTOMO! COME QUICK!
WH-WHAT'S THAT?!
AGGHH
MNCH
MNCH
IF WE GET ANY CLOSER HE MIGHT HEAD FOR THE TRAP! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT!
AH!
HE'S OVER THERE!
YOU'RE HIS CLASSMATES! WHY DID YOU LET HIM GO?
HE RAN OFF WITH THE ENTIRE FOOD CONTAINER!
WE EVEN GAVE HIM OUR FOOD SO HE'D BE FULL!
HE SEEMED SO HUNGRY. WE JUST FELT TOO SORRY FOR HIM!
B-BUT HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GOING TO DIE...HE SOUNDED SO AWFUL...I COULDN'T HELP IT!

NAKATA! COME OVER HERE!

IT USED TO BE THAT NAKATA WAS SO PICKY, HE DIDN'T EVEN EAT MUCH...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO LET HIM GO!
YOU IDIOTS!

KLANK
UNHH!

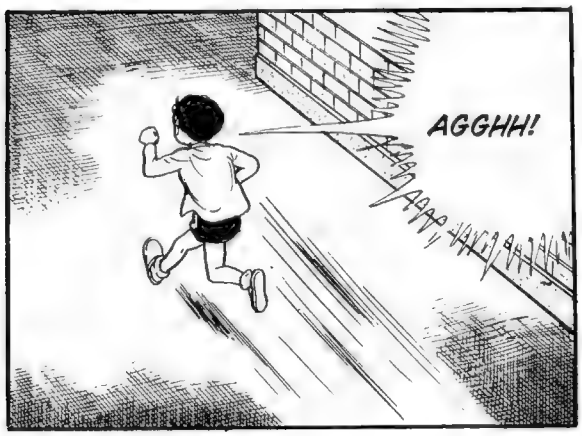
GULP

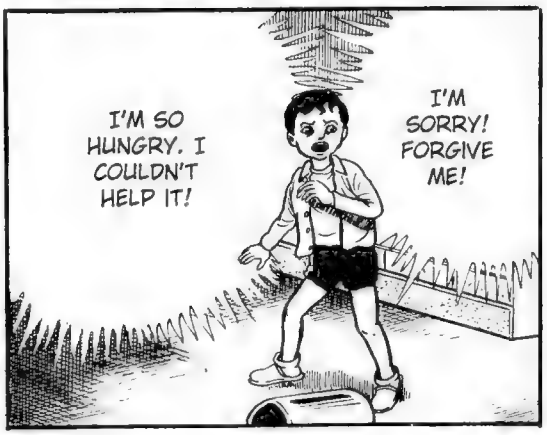
MNCH
MNCH

D-DON'T HURT ME!

AAGH!

COME HERE! IT'S OKAY!

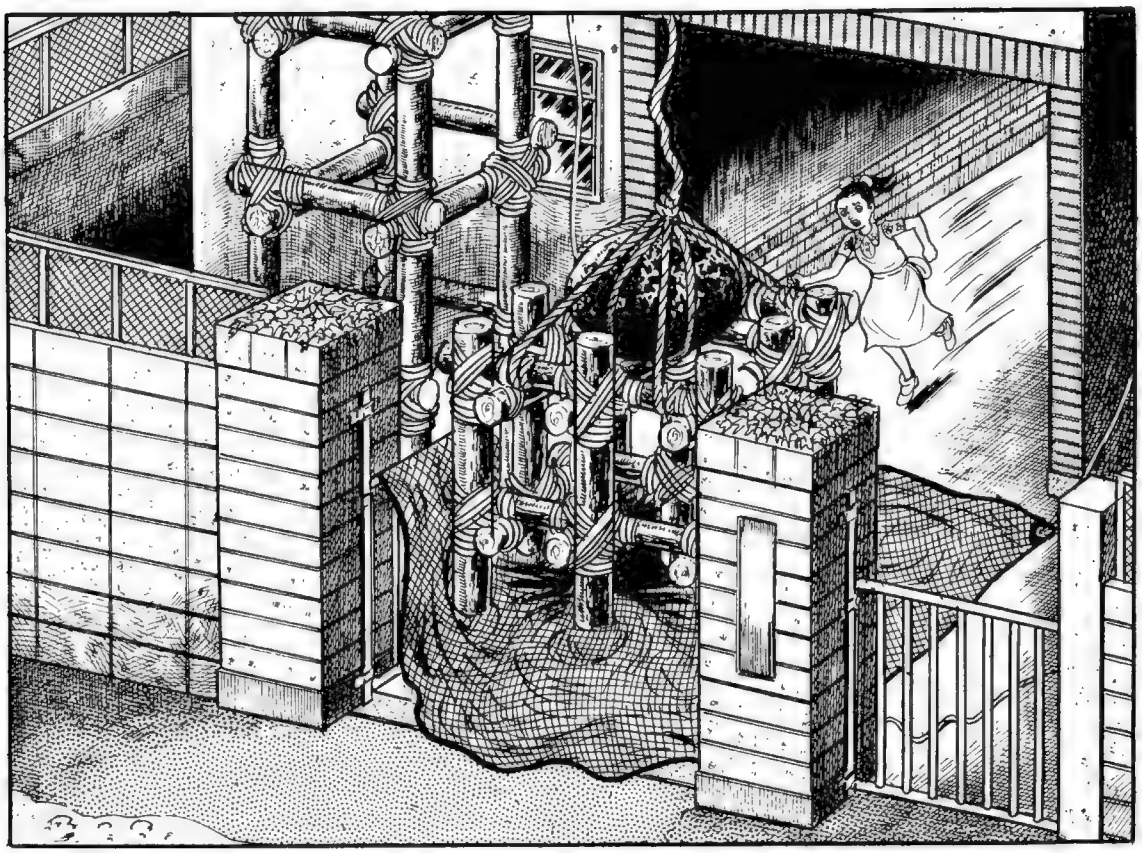

AGGHH!

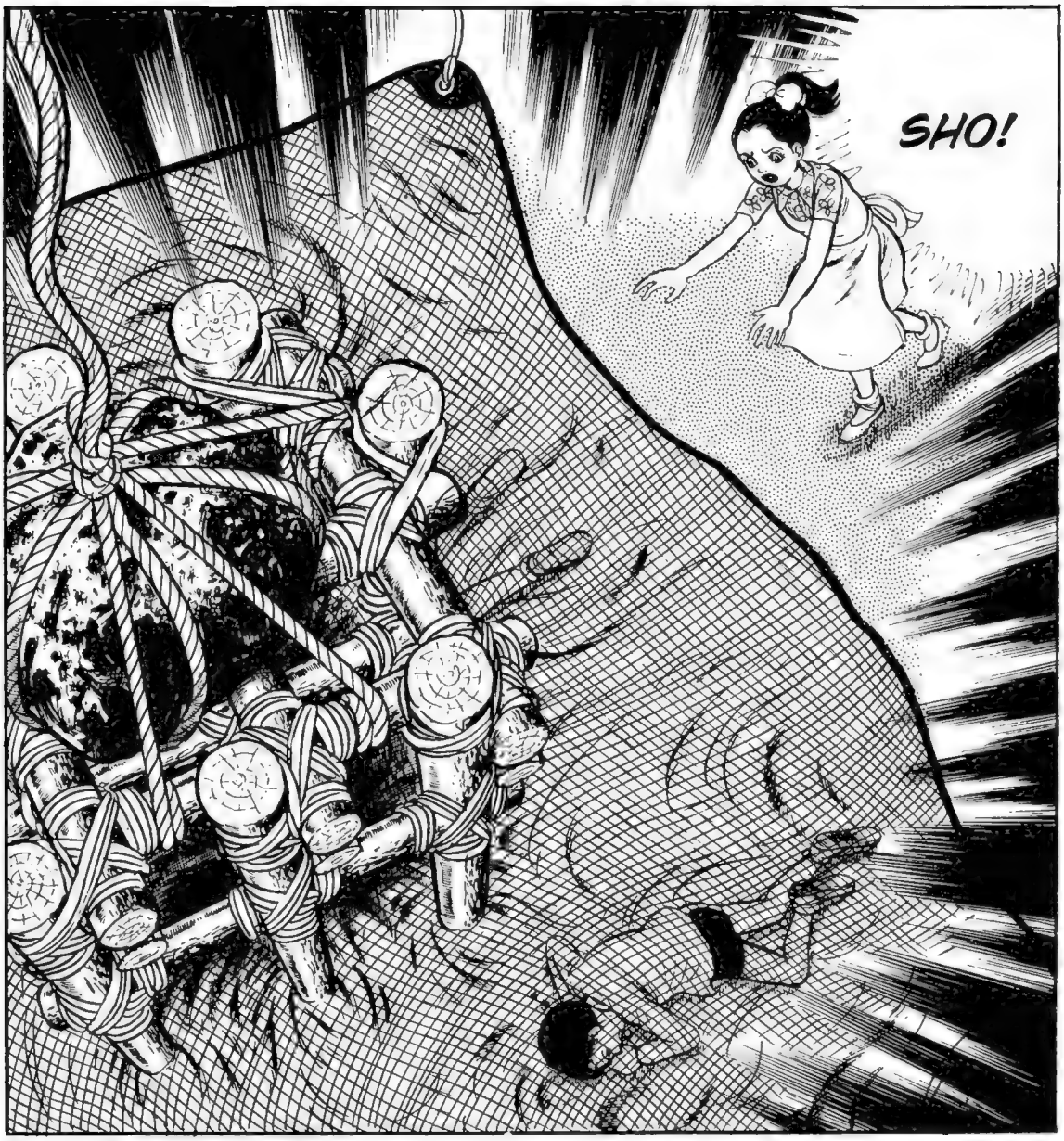

I'M SO HUNGRY. I COULDN'T HELP IT!
I'M SORRY! FORGIVE ME!

EEYAAA!
YOU'LL GET KILLED!
THE GATE'S TRAPPED!
STOP!
KABAM
OOSH
WAAGH!

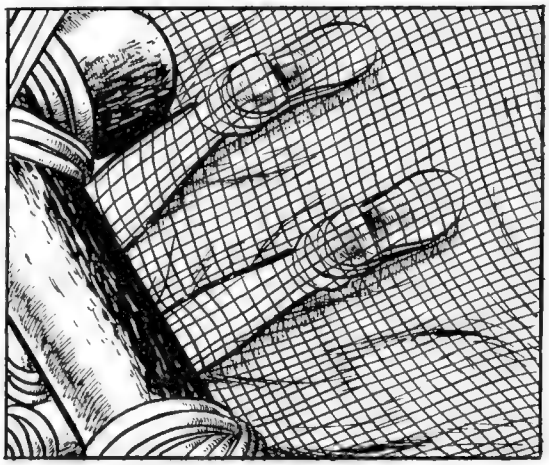
EEYA

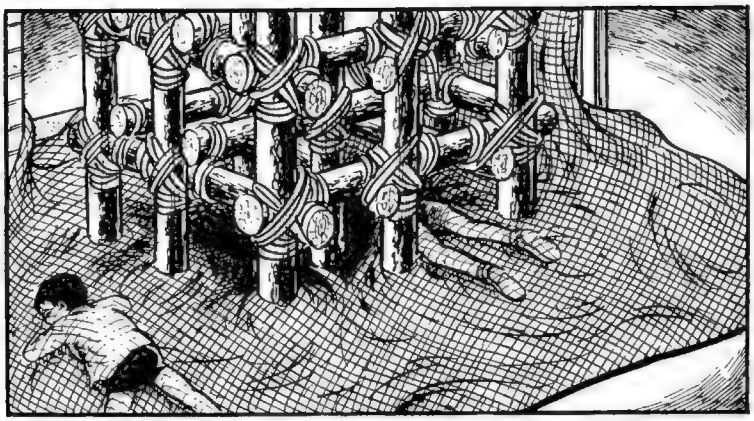
SHO!

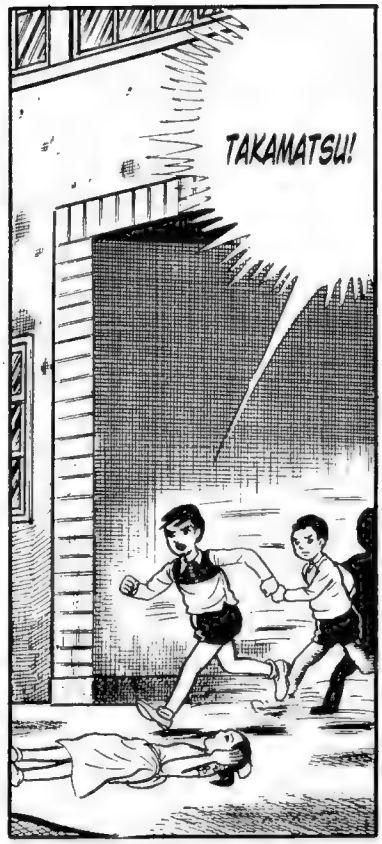


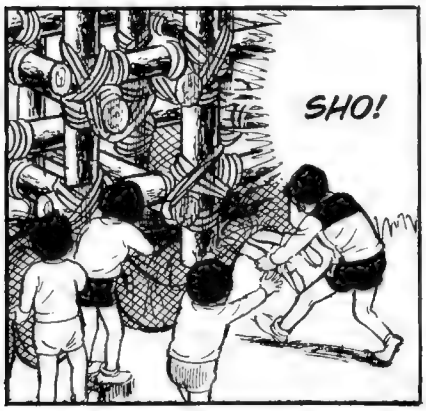

SHO!

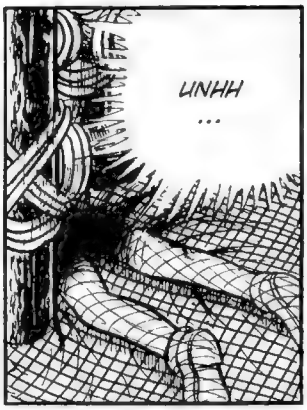
AIEE!



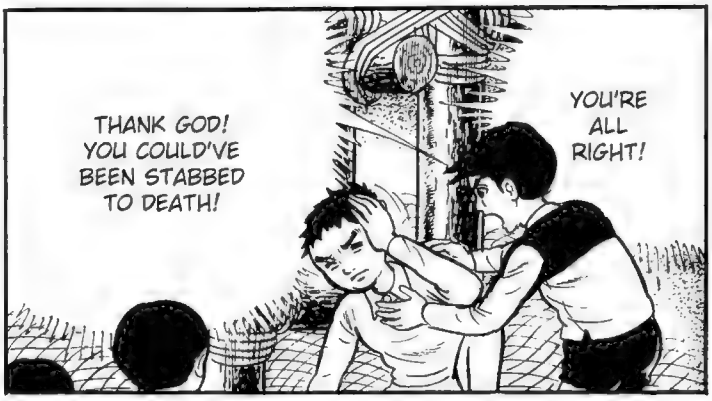


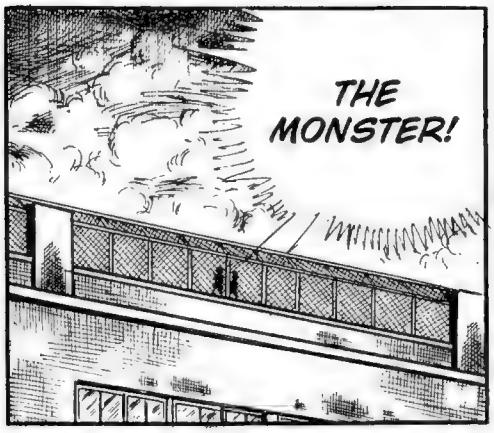

TAKAMATSU!


SHO!


UNHH ...

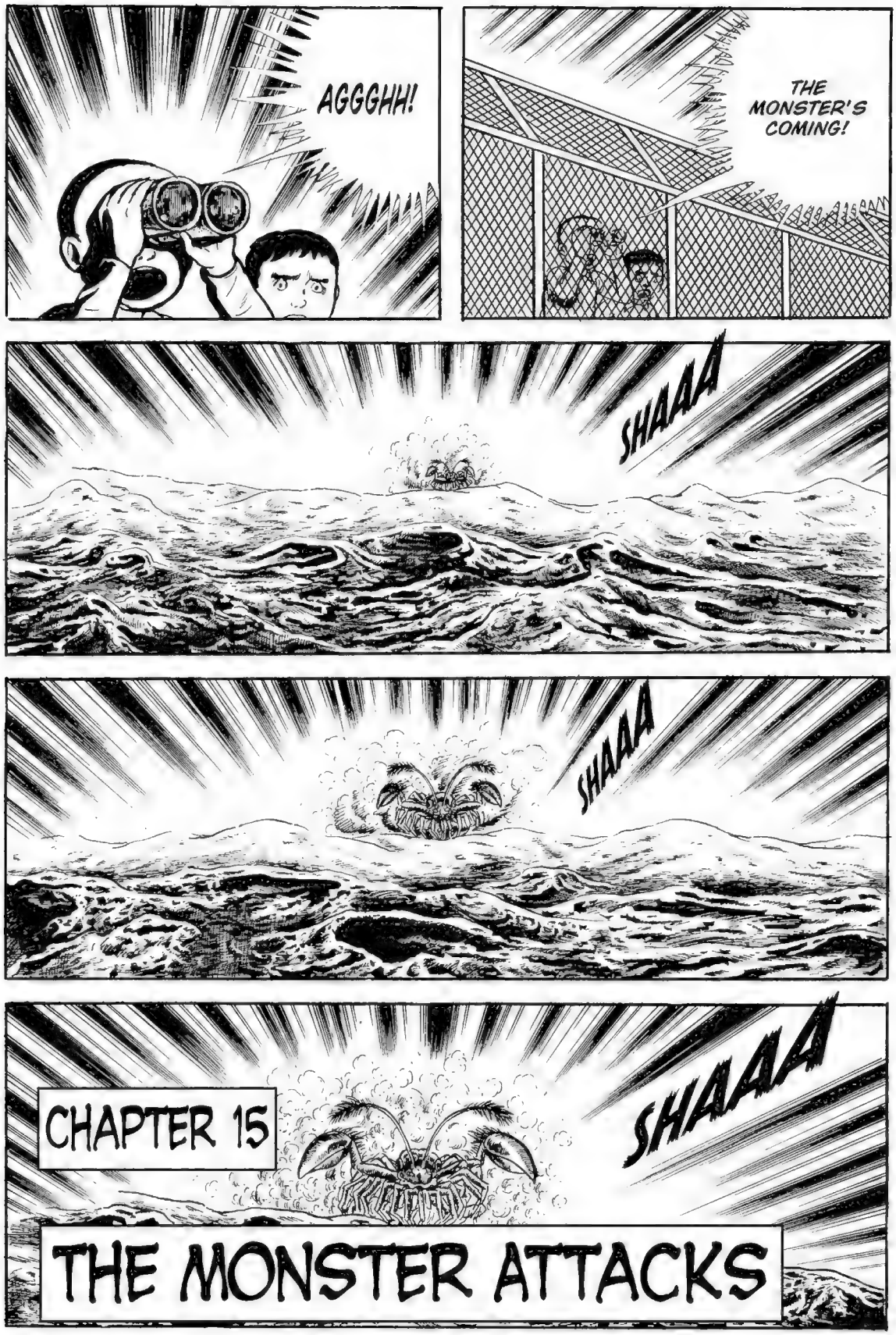
HUF HUF!
NAKATA! ARE YOU OKAY?


THANK GOD! YOU COULD'VE BEEN STABBED TO DEATH!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

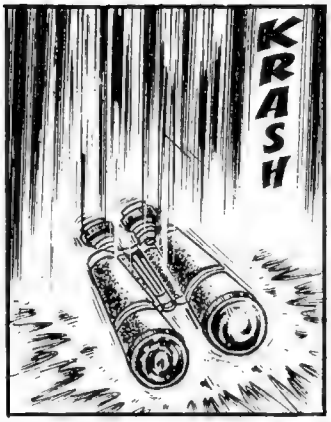

THE MONSTER!

YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR ME...!

I'M SO SORRY. IF YOU HADN'T SHOVED ME I WOULD HAVE...!


AGGGHH!
THE MONSTER'S COMING!
SHAAA
SHAAA
SHAAA
CHAPTER 15
THE MONSTER ATTACKS

THE MONSTER'S COMING!


KRASH

IT'S REAL!

SKAAA
OH NO!

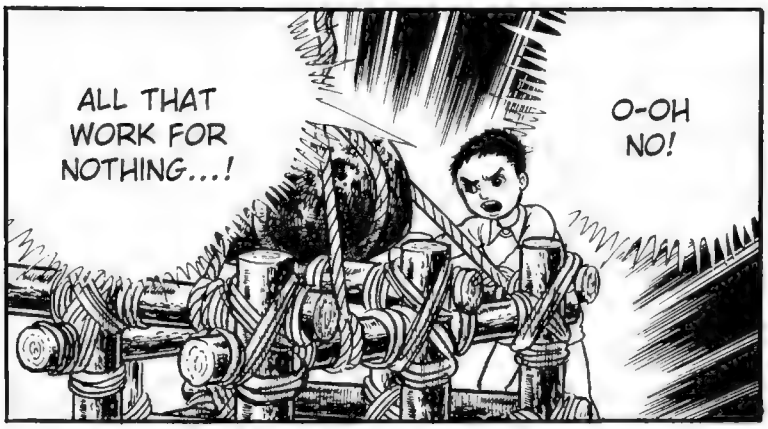
MONSTER!

THE MONSTER'S COMING!

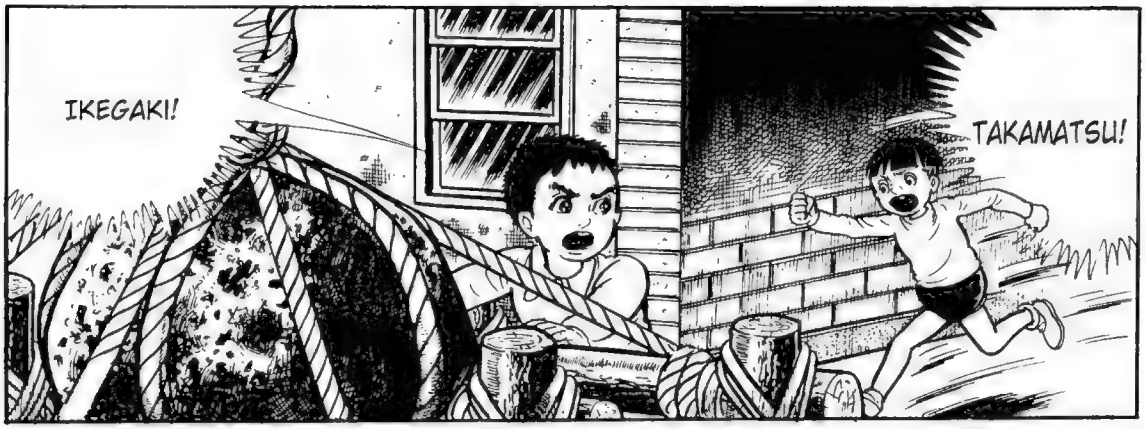
EVERYONE, GET INSIDE THE BUILDING!

AGGH!

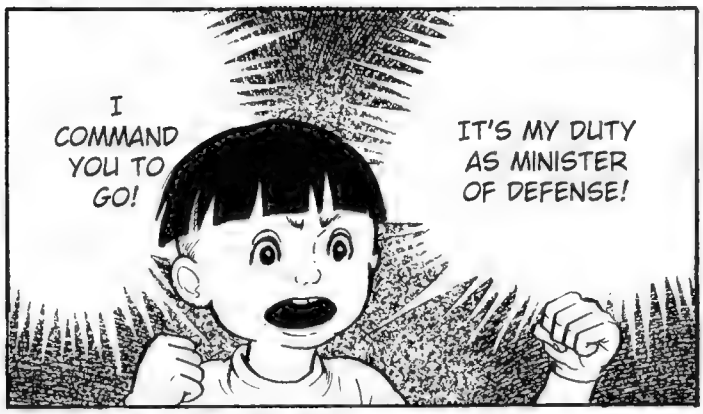
SKAAA
IT'S COMING RIGHT TOWARDS US!


ALL THAT WORK FOR NOTHING...!
O-OH NO!

EEYAA!

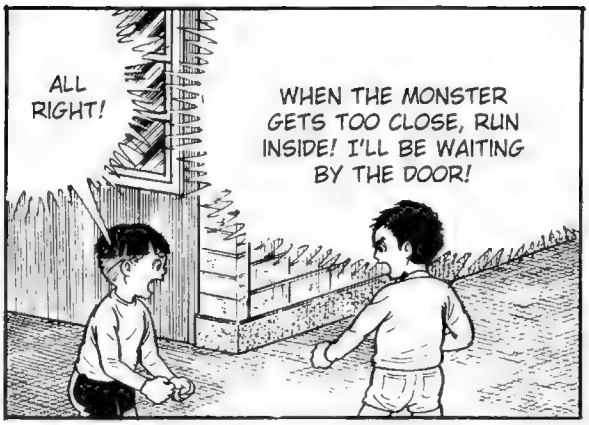

IKEGAKI!
TAKAMATSU!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!
YOU HAVE TO GO INSIDE!

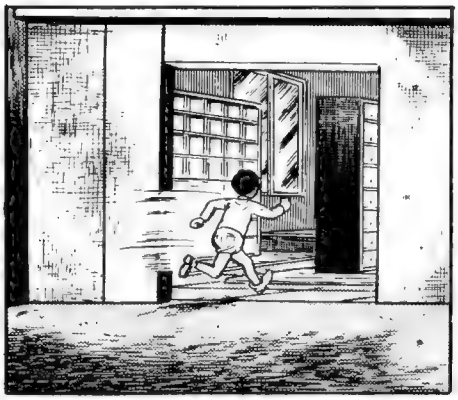

I COMMAND YOU TO GO!
IT'S MY DUTY AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE!

NO, I WANT TO HELP!

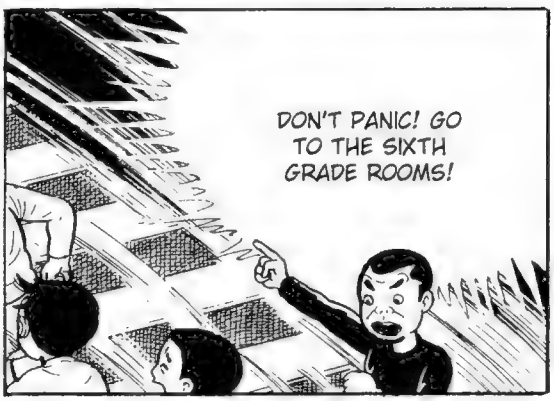
IKEGAKI!

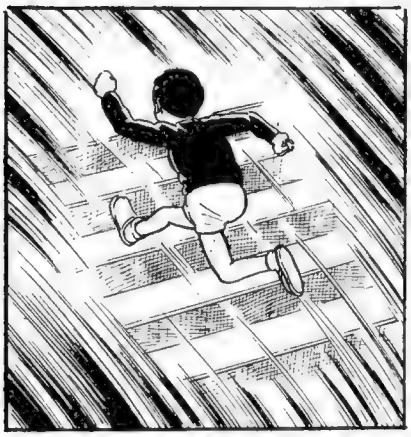

ALL RIGHT!
WHEN THE MONSTER GETS TOO CLOSE, RUN INSIDE! I'LL BE WAITING BY THE DOOR!

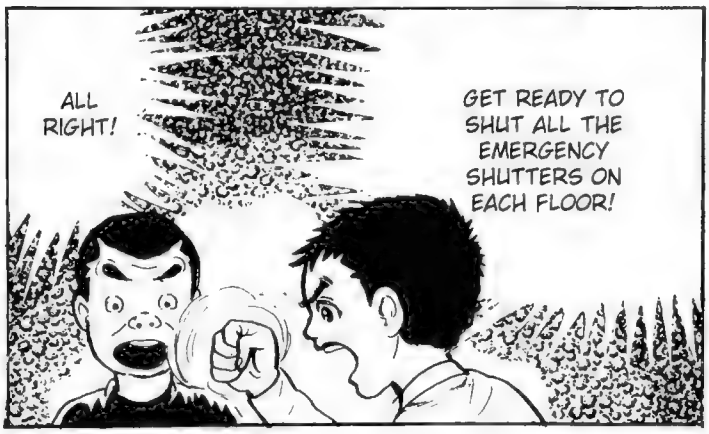
AIEE!



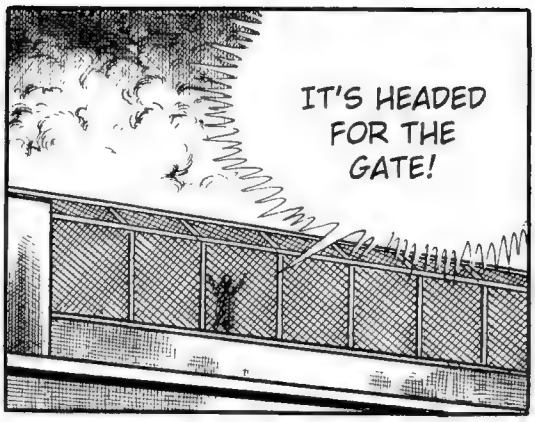
TAKAMATSU!
IS EVERYONE INSIDE?


DON'T PANIC! GO TO THE SIXTH GRADE ROOMS!




ALL RIGHT!
GET READY TO SHUT ALL THE EMERGENCY SHUTTERS ON EACH FLOOR!

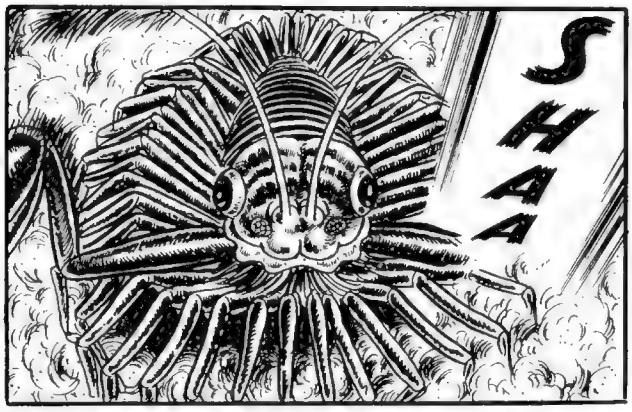
EEEYAA!

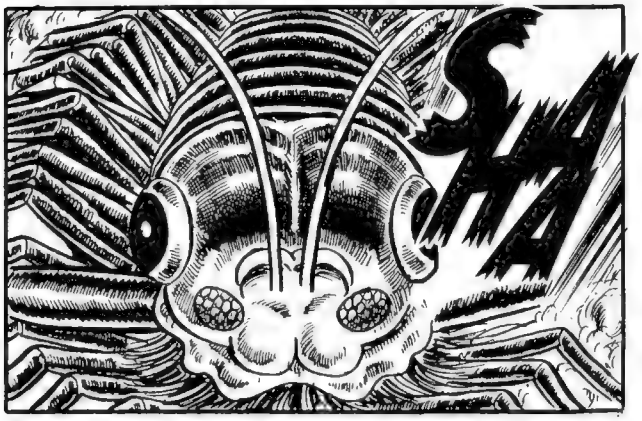

IT'S HEADED FOR THE GATE!

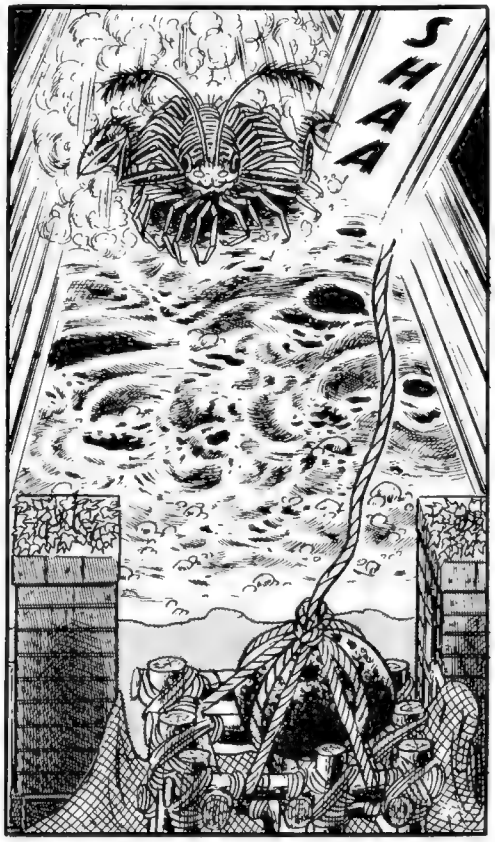
STOP CRYING! THE MONSTER WILL FIND US!

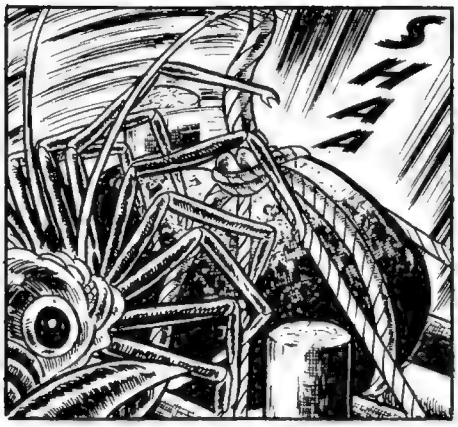
DON'T CRY!

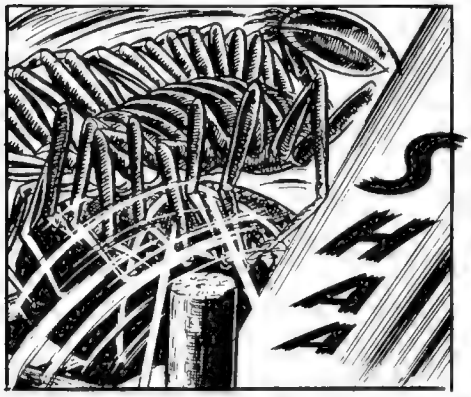
WAAH
WAAH

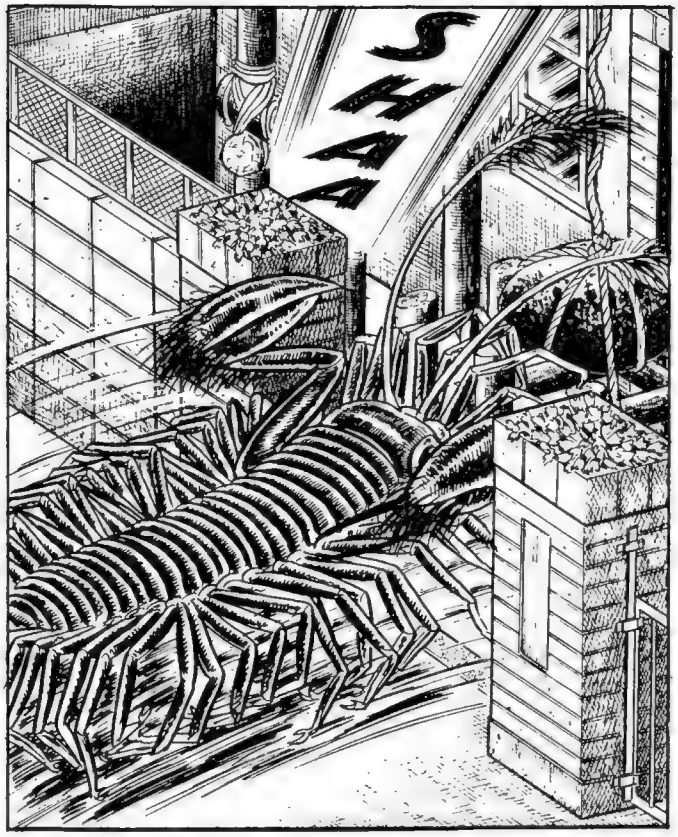

SHAA

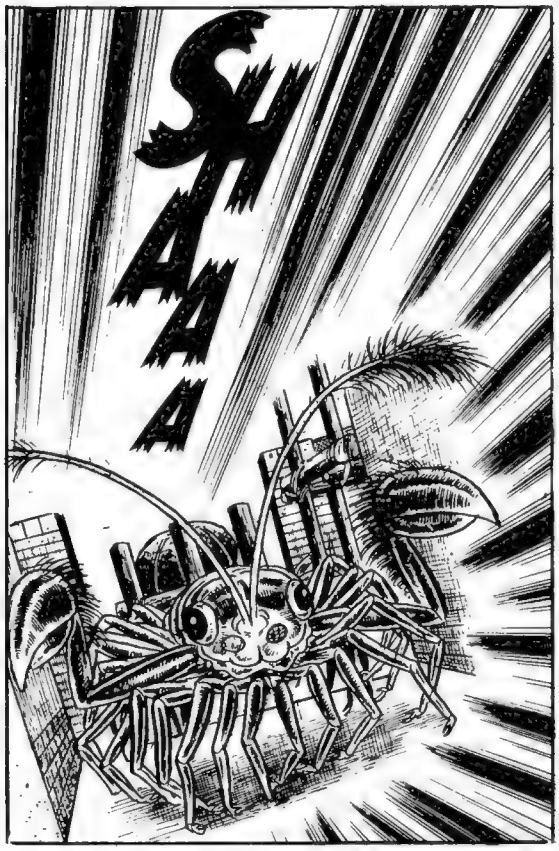

SHA
A


SHAA

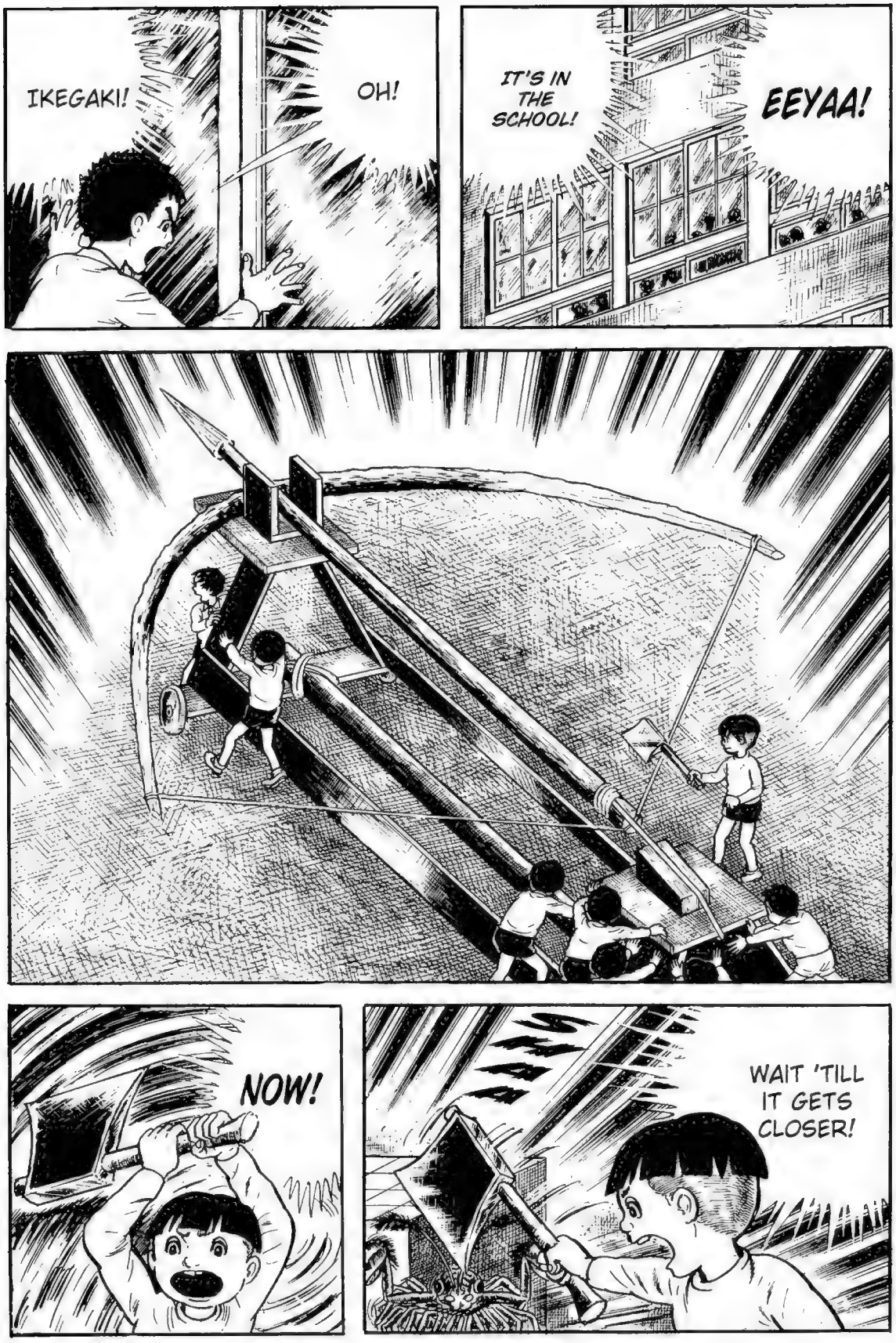

SHAA

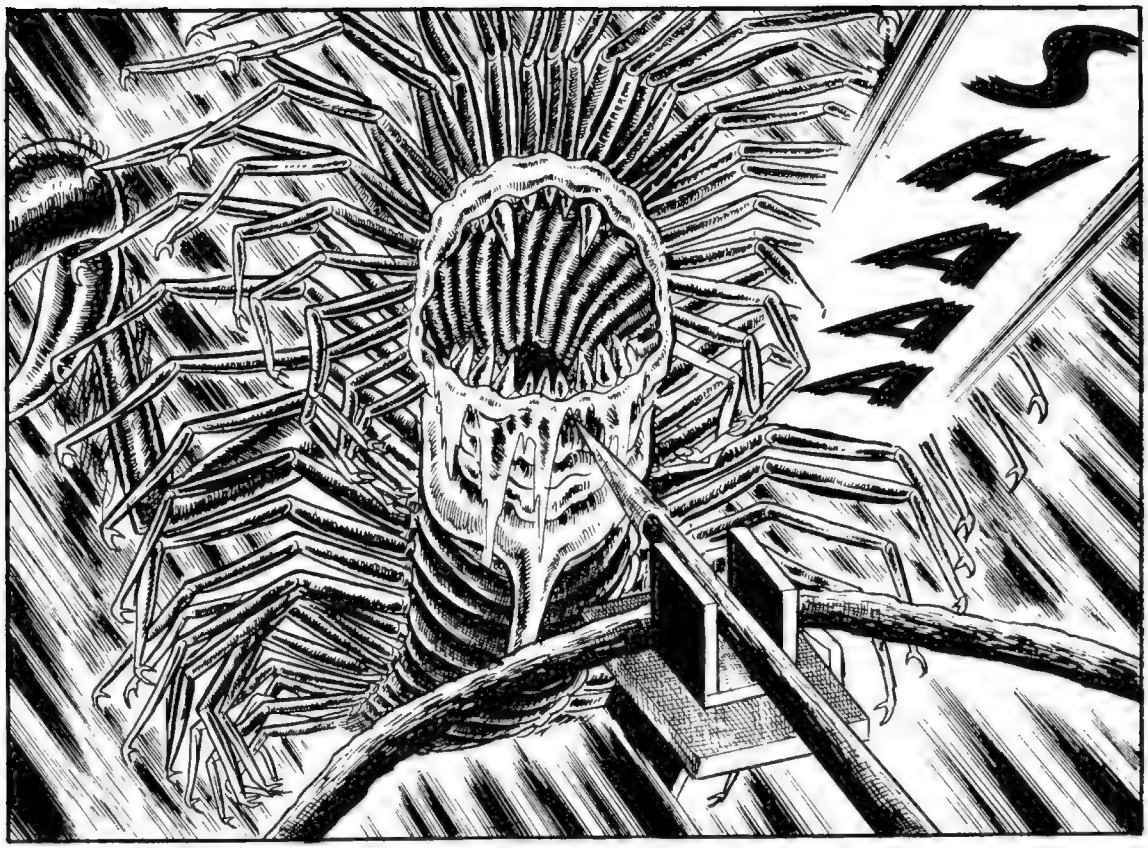

SHAA

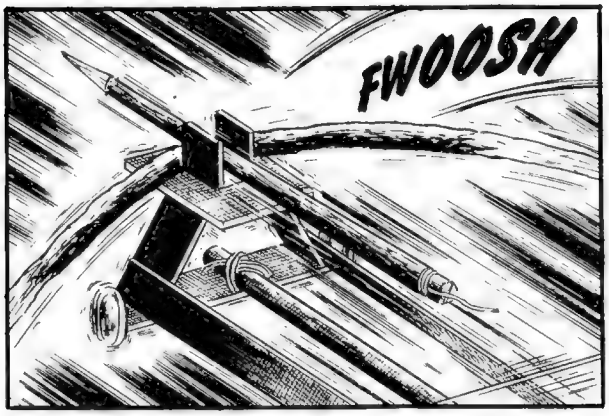

SHAA

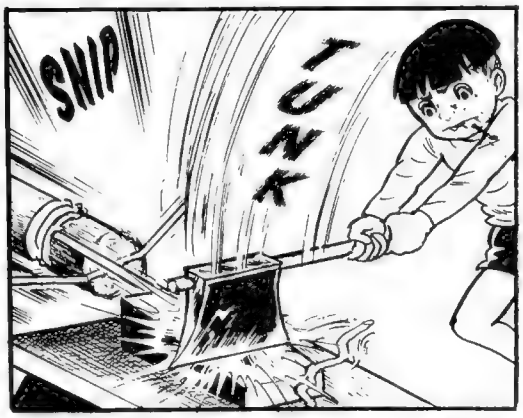

SHAAA

SHAA


IKEGAKI!
OH!
IT'S IN THE SCHOOL!
EEYAA!
NOW!
WAIT 'TILL IT GETS CLOSER!


SHAAA

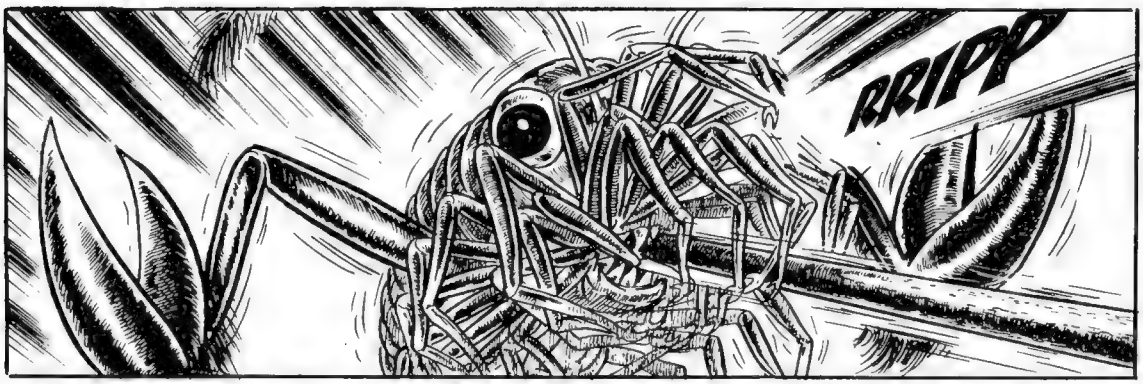

FWOOSH


SHIP
TUNK

FWEEE

WE DID IT!

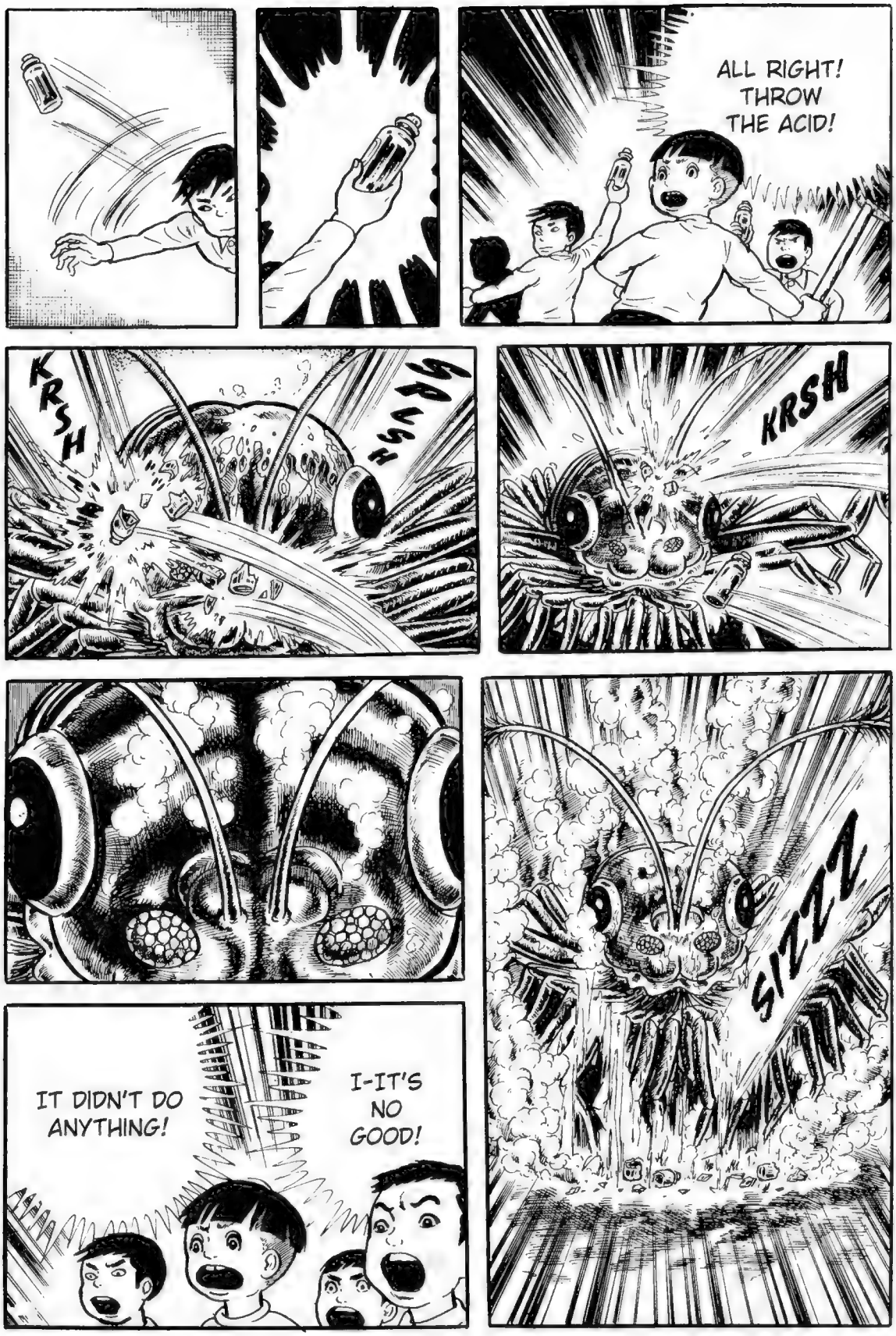
GLEGGH!
THOK

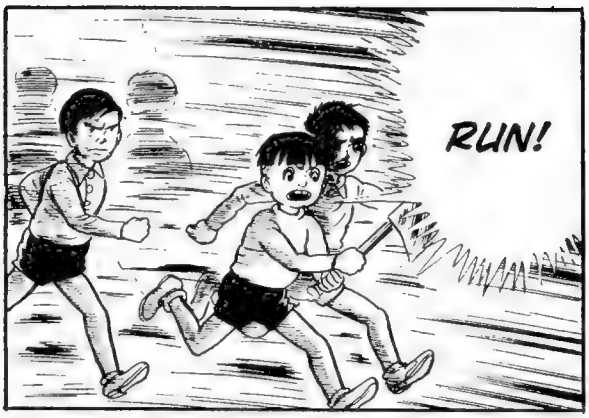

RRIPP

RIPP
RIPP
IT'S NOT HURT!

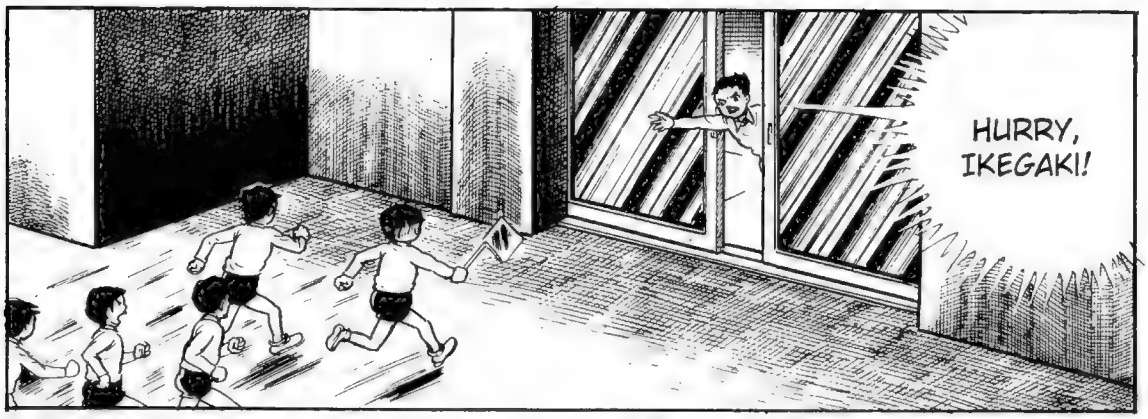
NO!

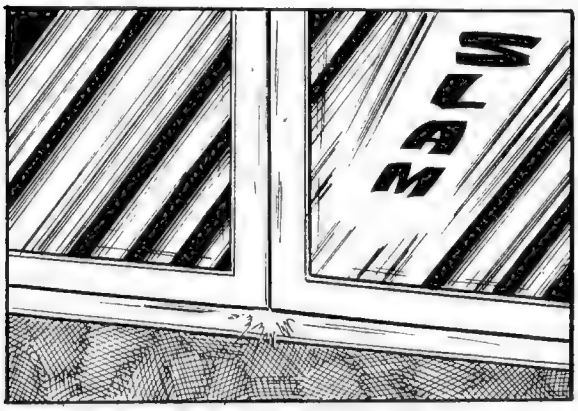
KRAK

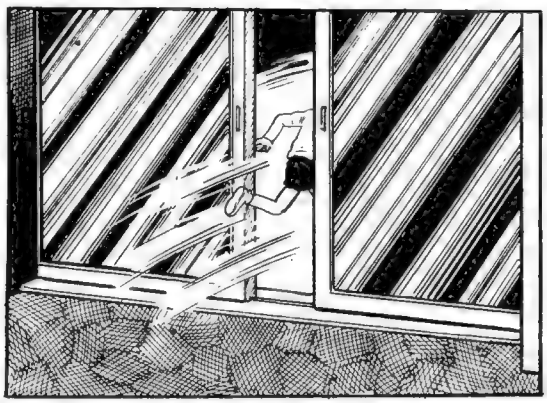

ALL RIGHT! THROW THE ACID!
KRSH
SPLASH
KRSH
SIZZZ
IT DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
I-IT'S NO GOOD!

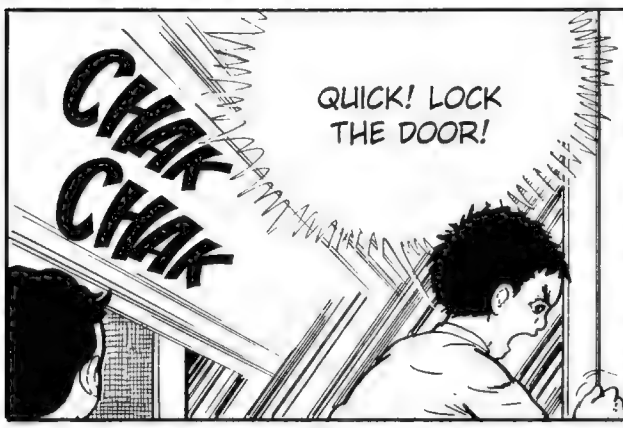

RUN!

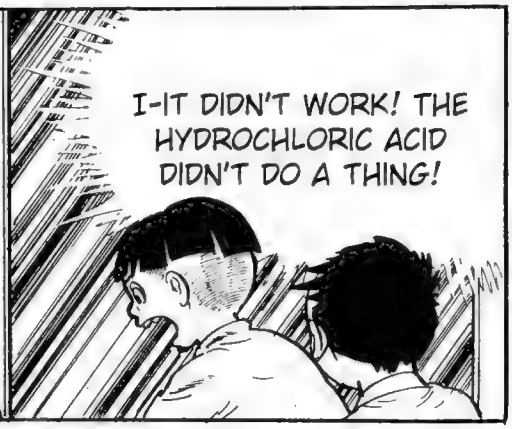
SHAAA

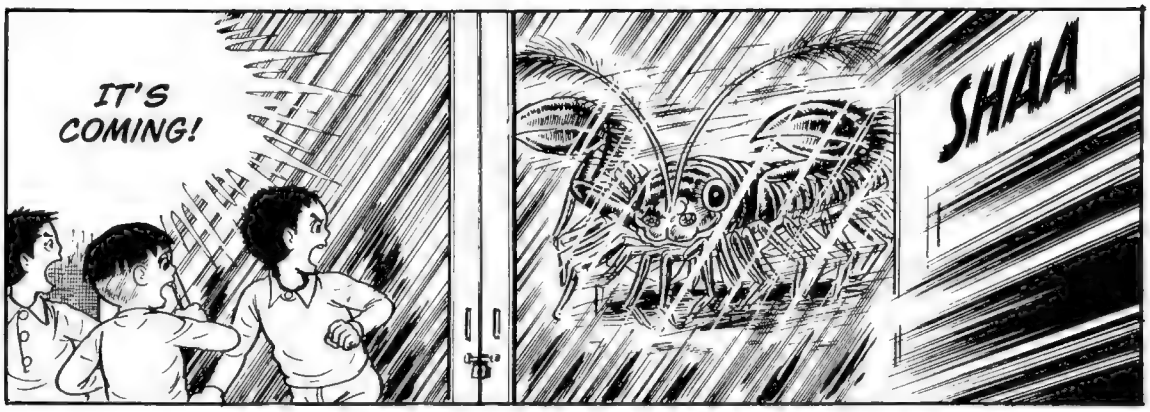

HURRY, IKEGAKI!


SLAM



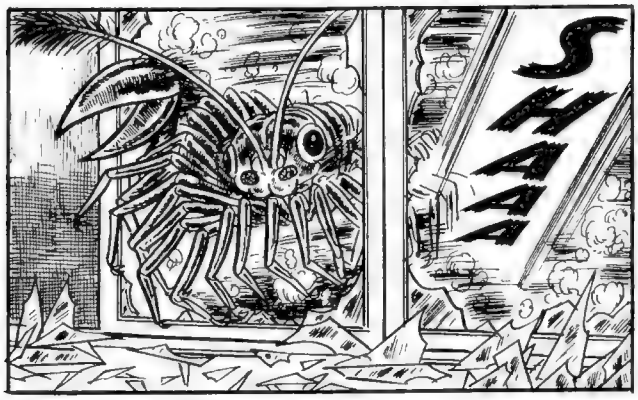

CHAK CHAK
QUICK! LOCK THE DOOR!

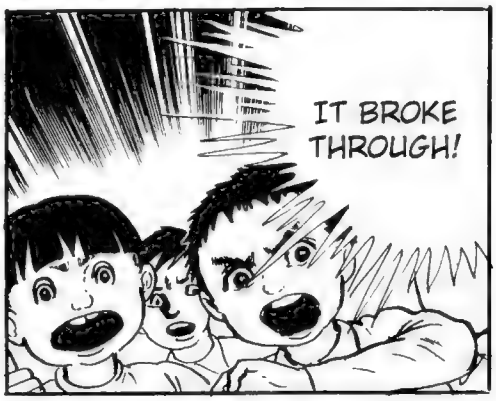

I-IT DIDN'T WORK! THE HYDROCHLORIC ACID DIDN'T DO A THING!


IT'S COMING!
SHAA

AAGGH!
KRASH

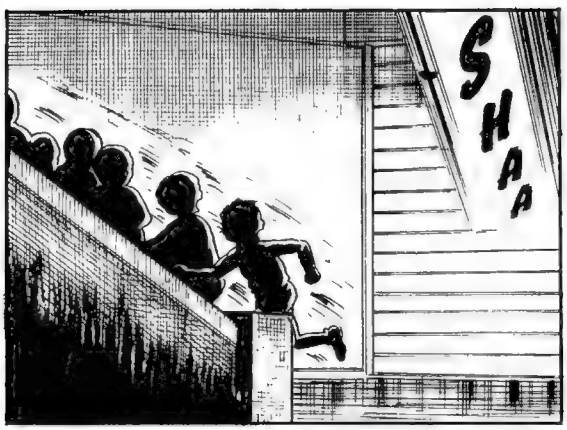
SLAM


SHAAA


IT BROKE THROUGH!

SKREE
CLOSE THE EMERGENCY SHUTTERS ON THE FIRST FLOOR!

EEYAA!


SHAA

WHAM
RATTLE

KRIKK

THUD

GET UPSTAIRS!

UWAAH!

DROP THE SHUTTER!

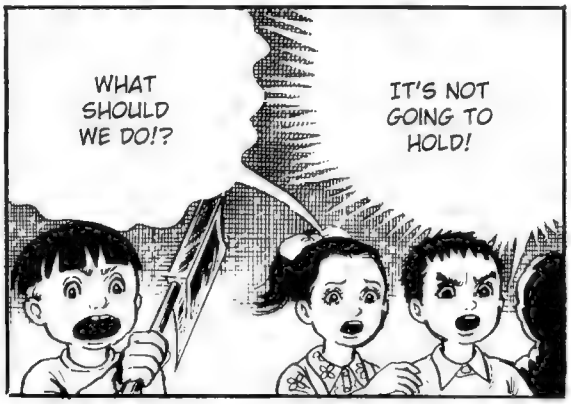
SHO!

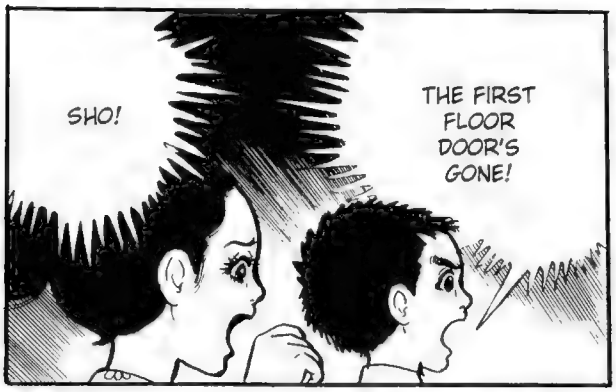
IT'S TEARING THROUGH THE SHUTTER ON THE FIRST FLOOR!

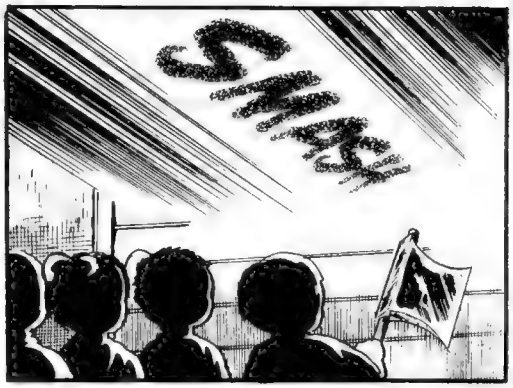
RIP
KRIK

WHAMM

THEY'RE UP ON THE THIRD FLOOR SCREAMING AND CRYING!
WAIT! WHERE'S YU? WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?


WHAT SHOULD WE DO!?
IT'S NOT GOING TO HOLD!


SHO!
THE FIRST FLOOR DOOR'S GONE!


SMASH

IT'S COMING UPSTAIRS!

SHAA

PLEASE GOD, DON'T LET IT CLIMB THE STAIRS! MAKE IT GO TO THE FACULTY ROOM!

PULL DOWN THE DOOR AND BARRICADE IT WITH THE DESKS!
SHO! GO UPSTAIRS!

AGGH!
THUD

IF I DON'T MAKE IT, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT IT ON THE THIRD FLOOR!

DO IT! I'M THE DEFENSE MINISTER! FOLLOW MY ORDERS!

BUT THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO--

SHO! I'M SCARED!

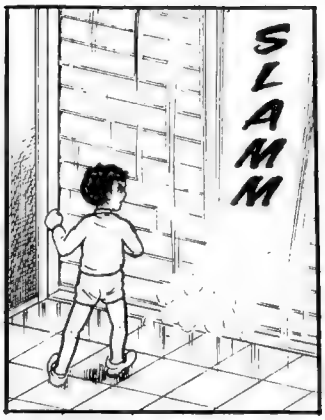
COME ON, SAKI!

OKAY!

RATTLE
RATTLE

COME ON, YU!

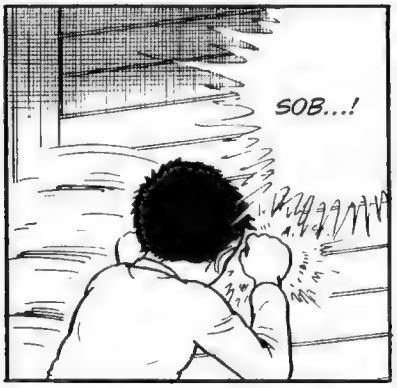
BANG


SLAMM

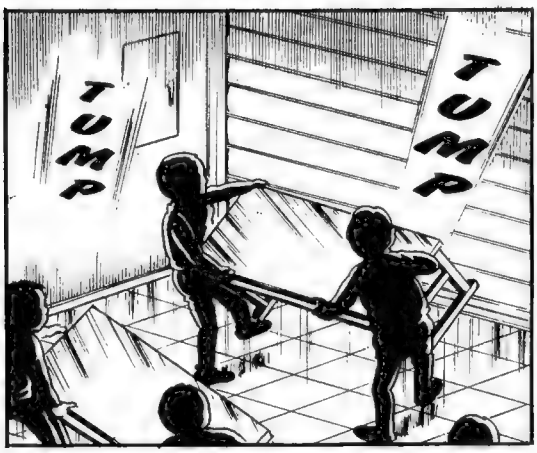
IKEGAKI!

HANG IN THERE!

IKEGAKI!


SOB...!

SAME TO YOU, TAKAMATSU! I'M LEAVING THE REST UP TO YOU!


TUMP
TUMP

ALL RIGHT!
ALL RIGHT! EVERYBODY IN THE SIXTH GRADE, BARRICADE THIS WITH TABLES AND DESKS!

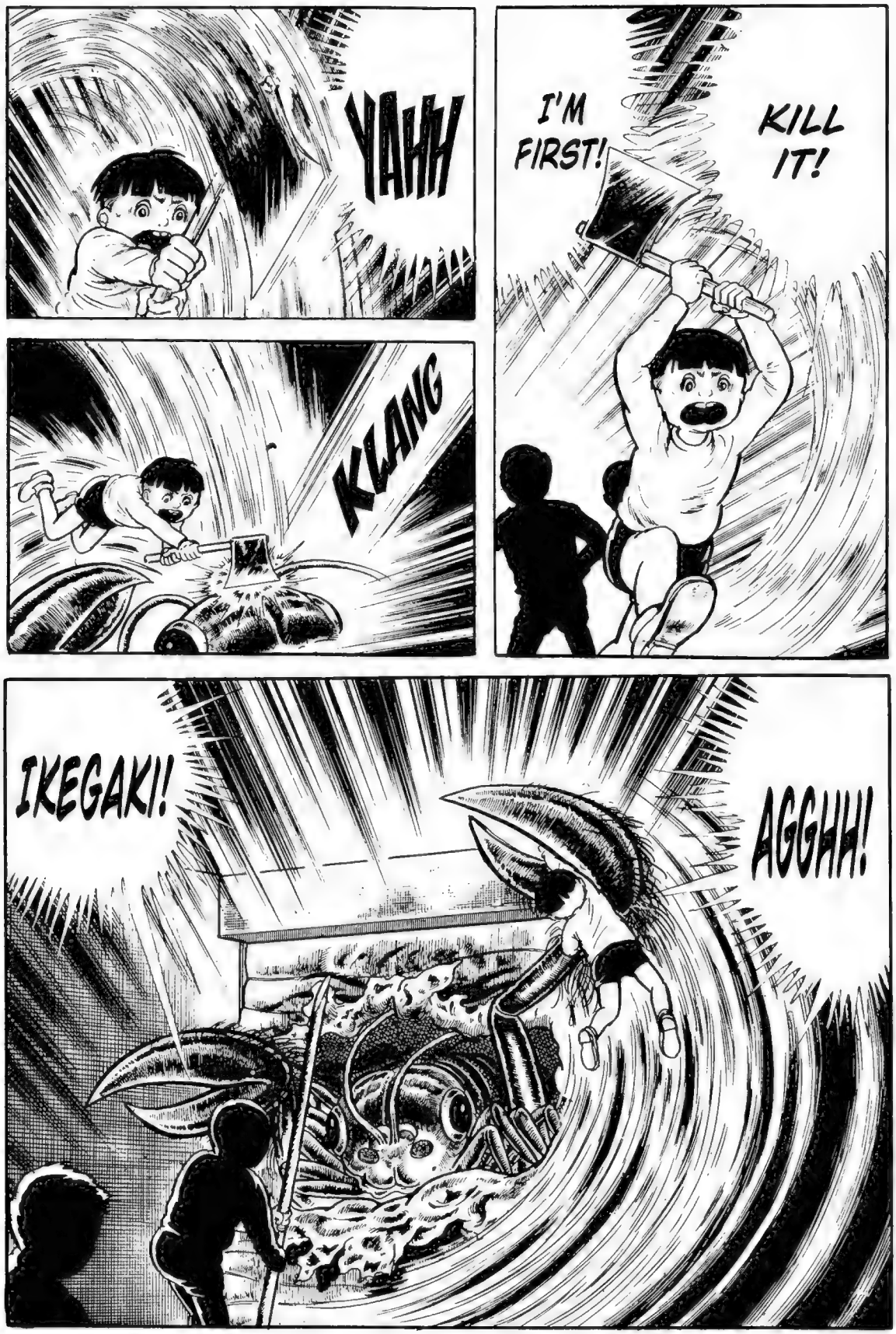
RNCH

BANG

DOME

GRAB YOUR WEAPONS! DON'T LET IT GET THROUGH!

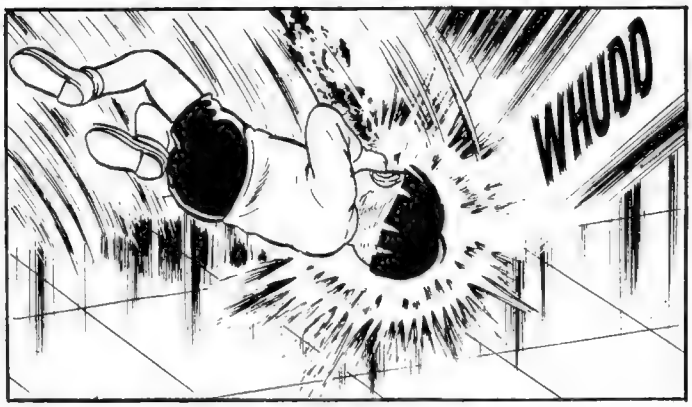
BUT IT'S TOO STRONG!
OKAY! WE'RE TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THAT MONSTER!

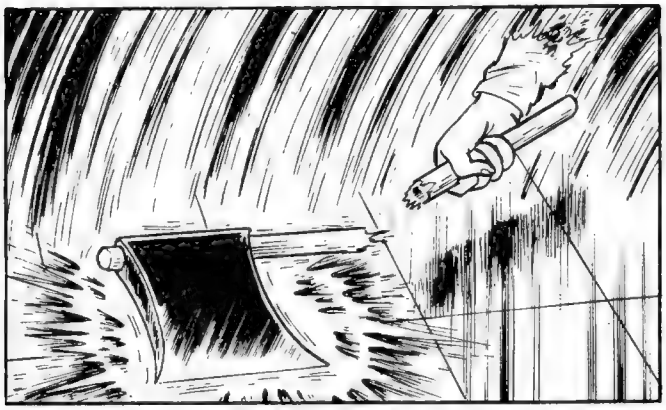

YAHH
I'M FIRST!
KILL IT!
KLANG
IKEGAKI!
AGGHH!

GYAAA!

RIPP

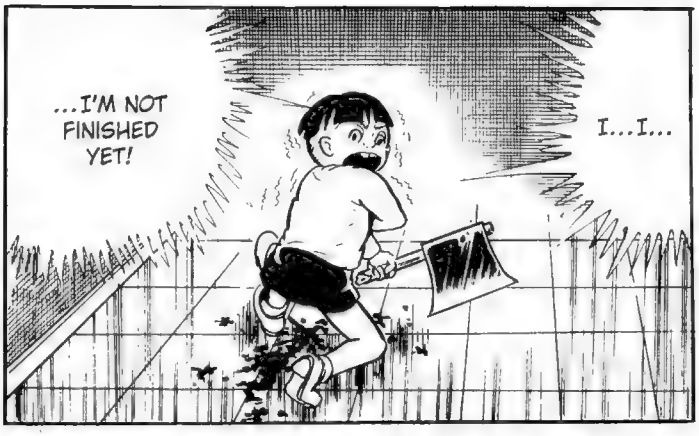
IKEGAKI!

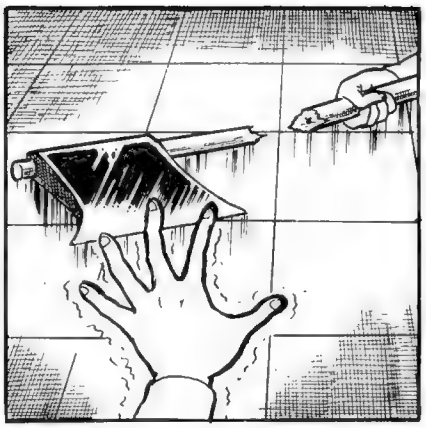

WHUDD



NNNYAA!

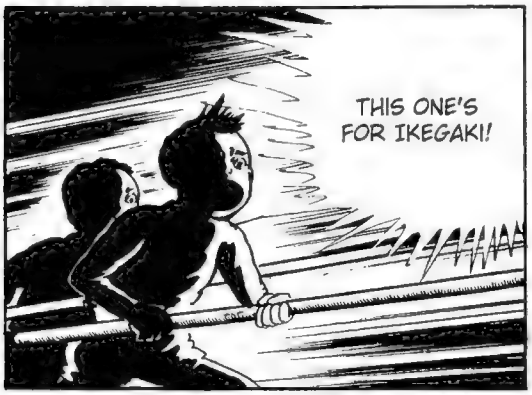
M-MY
HAND!


...I'M NOT FINISHED YET!
I...I...

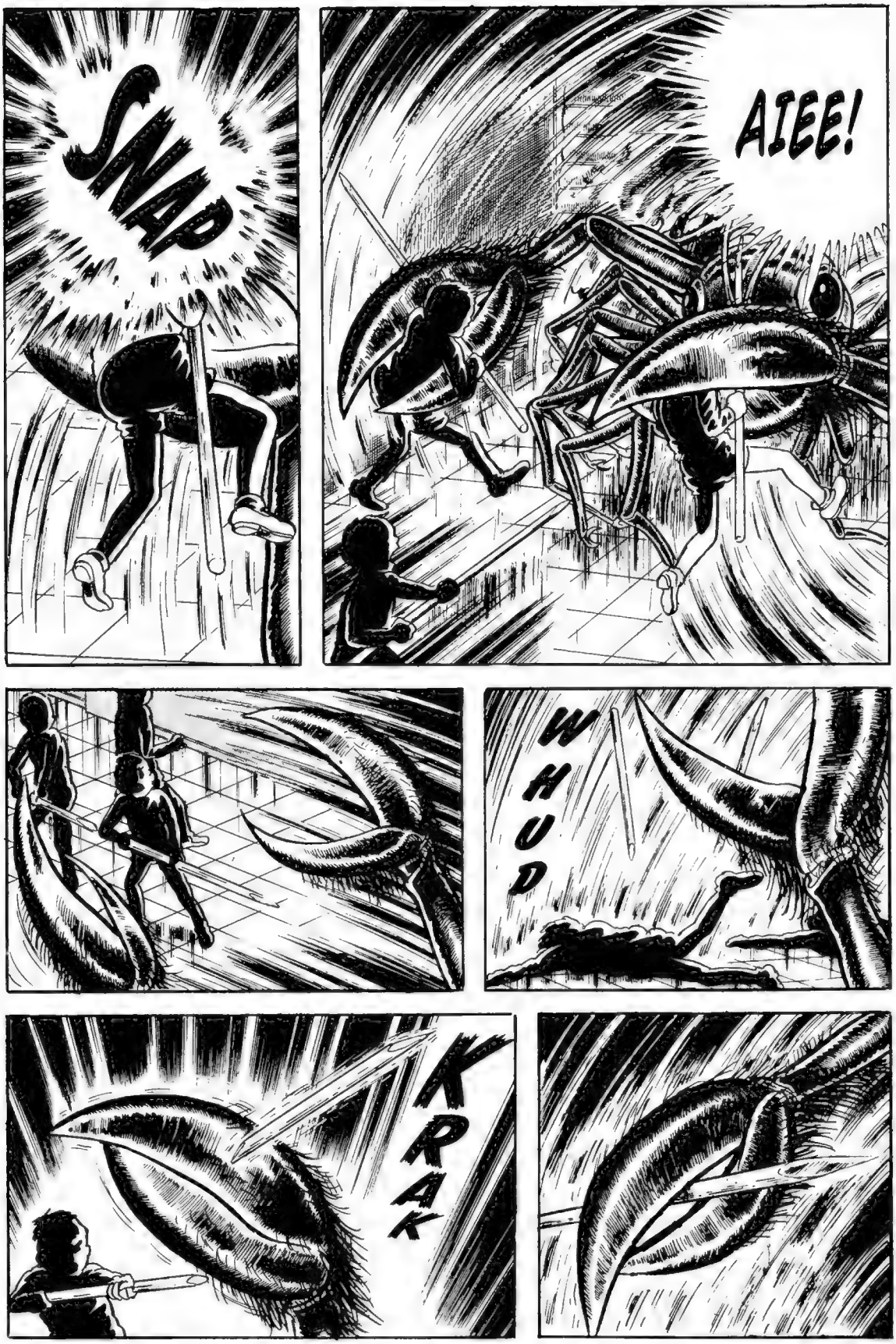


UWAAH

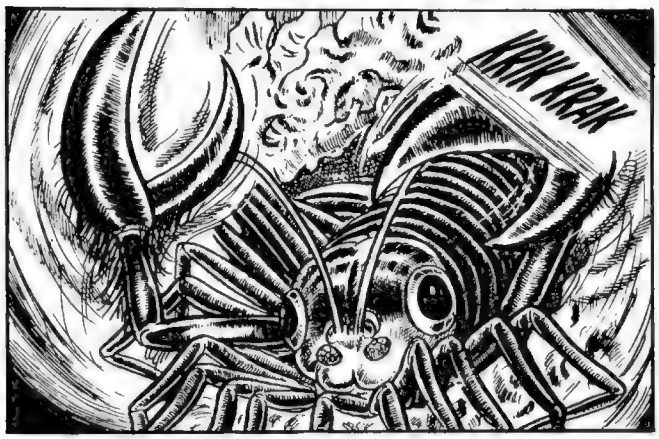
KRAK

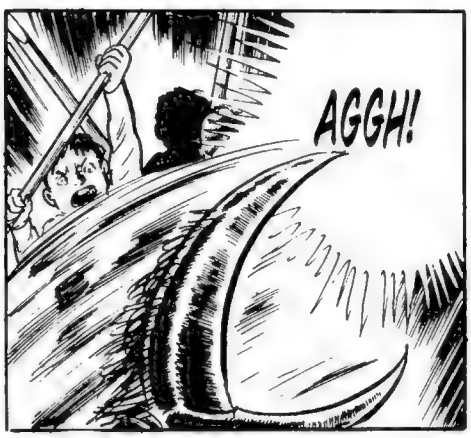

THIS ONE'S FOR IKEGAKI!

TUNK


SWAP
AIEE!
WHUD
KRAK

NNAGGH!

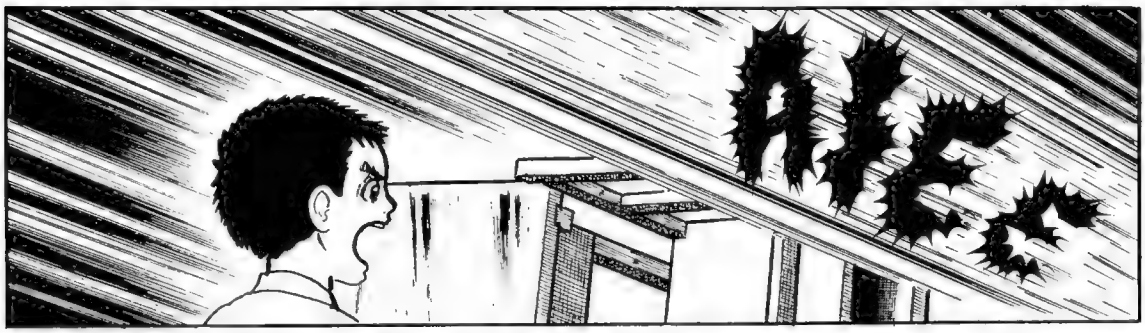

KRAK KRAK


AGGH!

D-DON'T GIVE UP! FIGHT TO THE END!

YAHH

IKEGAKI!
KRNCH


AIEE

NOOO!
WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE?!

SHO!

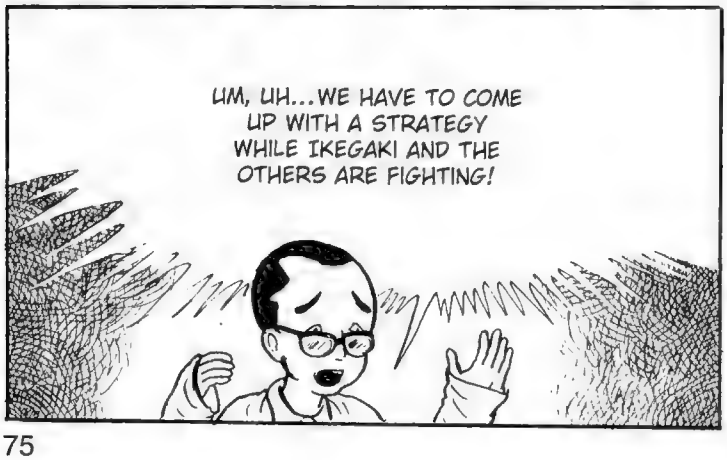
FIGHT HARD, EVERYONE! FIGHT HARD!

AGGGHH
RIP SPLK

IF I HADN'T RUN INTO THE TRAP, THE MONSTER WOULD HAVE BEEN STABBED TO DEATH!

I'M SO SORRY. IT'S MY FAULT THE BOOBY TRAP DIDN'T WORK!

THOSE STAKES WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED THE MONSTER!
STOP CRYING! WHAT'S DONE IS DONE! BESIDES, YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF!


UM, UH...WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH A STRATEGY WHILE IKEGAKI AND THE OTHERS ARE FIGHTING!

T-T-TAKAMATSU!

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS MONSTER CAN EXIST. THEORETICALLY AND SCIENTIFICALLY, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I-I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO SAY THIS, BUT NOW I HAVE TO!
I-I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE MONSTER!
IT'S NOT THAT I DIDN'T TRUST YOU. BUT LIKE THE GANG BOSS GIRL SAID, I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING THAT BIG COULD LIVE IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS DESERT. THERE'S NO OTHER ANIMALS FOR IT TO EAT!
WHAT?
...IN A DESERT THAT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE BLADE OF GRASS!
Y-YOU ALSO SAID YOU SAW TREES, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE EITHER! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE LARGER PLANTS AND TREES...
BUT WE SAW THE TREES! THEY'RE REAL! WE WERE BOTH THERE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

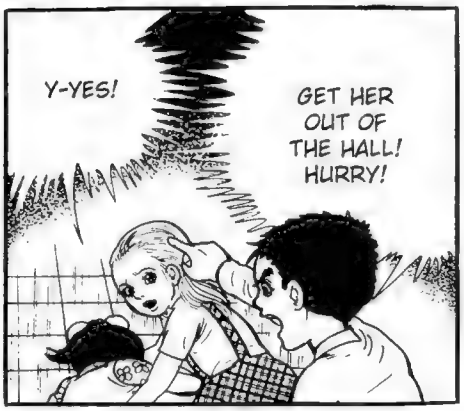
TAKAMATSU... SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
NISHI! IS SHE OKAY?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

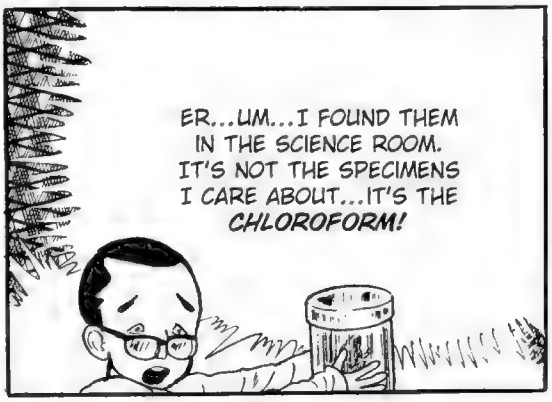
SAKI!

WHAT'S IN THOSE JARS?
GAMO!

T-TAKA-MATSU!


Y-YES!
GET HER OUT OF THE HALL! HURRY!

...I DOUBT THIS WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT!
I THOUGHT WE COULD KNOCK THE MONSTER UNCONSCIOUS. BUT GIVEN HOW HYDROCHLORIC AND SULFURIC ACID DIDN'T WORK...


ER...UM...I FOUND THEM IN THE SCIENCE ROOM. IT'S NOT THE SPECIMENS I CARE ABOUT...IT'S THE *CHLOROFORM!*

THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!

Y-YES, BUT IF THIS DOESN'T WORK WE'RE FINISHED!

WE HAVE TO TRY IT!

I AGREE WITH GAMO...THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

CALM DOWN, OTOMO!

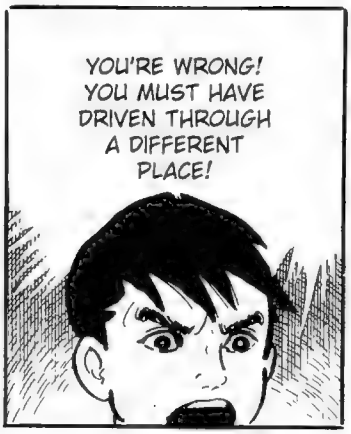
YOU KNOW HOW I WENT OUT IN THE CAR WITH MR. WAKAHARA.

THE MONSTER'S REAL! WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THERE!

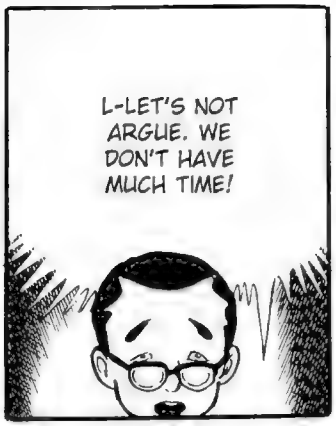
WE WERE LOOKING FOR ANY FORM OF LIFE! GRASS, TREES, ANYTHING!
WE DROVE THROUGH THE PLACE WHERE THE FOREST IS!

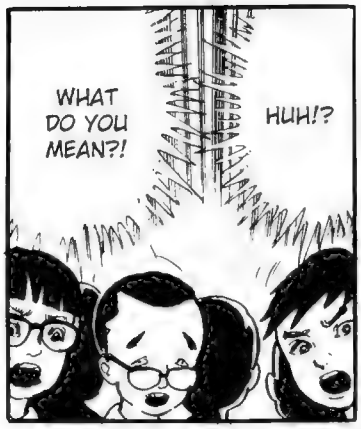
NO! I SAW OUR TIRE TRACKS!


YOU'RE WRONG! YOU MUST HAVE DRIVEN THROUGH A DIFFERENT PLACE!

HUH!?

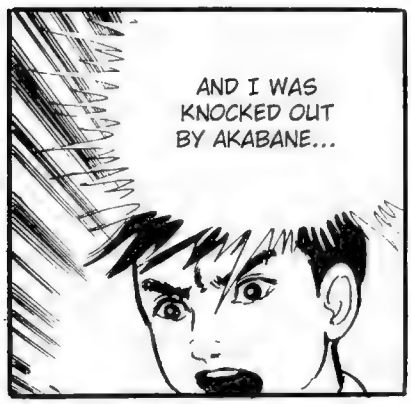
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I DON'T UNDERSTAND.


L-LET'S NOT ARGUE. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
HUH!?

WAS THERE ANYTHING YOU WERE DOING? OR ANY SPECIAL STATE YOU WERE IN? QUICKLY!

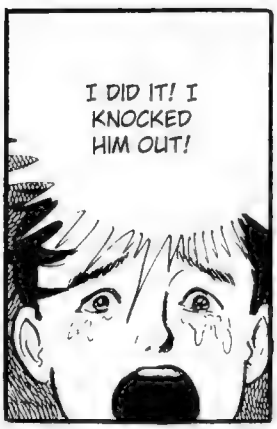
THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW.
WHY DIDN'T THE MONSTER KILL OTOMO AND SHO? WHY DID IT LEAVE YOU ALONE?


AND I WAS KNOCKED OUT BY AKABANE...

COME TO THINK OF IT...SEKIYA KNOCKED IKEGAKI OUT TOO!

SEKIYA KNOCKED ME OUT! I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING UNTIL I WOKE UP.

I'M SO SORRY!

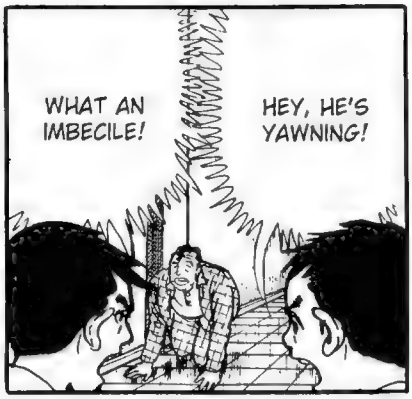

I DID IT! I KNOCKED HIM OUT!

AKABANE!
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!

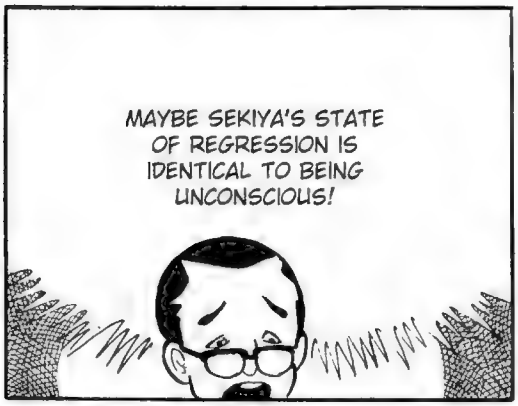
WHAT WAS SEKIYA DOING?!

SLEEPY TIME!
SLEEPY TIME!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, AKABANE!


WHAT AN IMBECILE!
HEY, HE'S YAWNING!

YAAWN!


MAYBE SEKIYA'S STATE OF REGRESSION IS IDENTICAL TO BEING UNCONSCIOUS!

HE'S ASLEEP!

ZZZ... SNNKK...

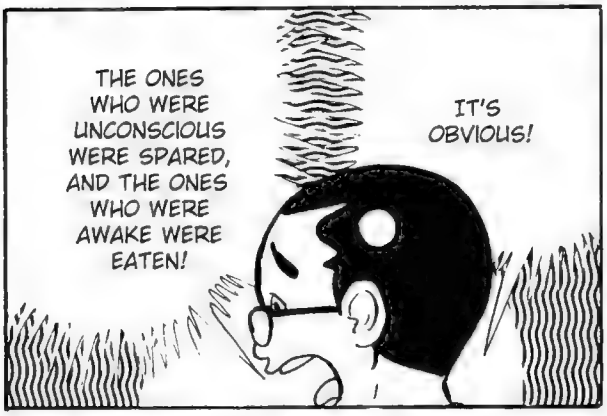
TASHIRO ATTACKED THE MONSTER!

WHAT ABOUT TASHIRO? HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT KILLED!

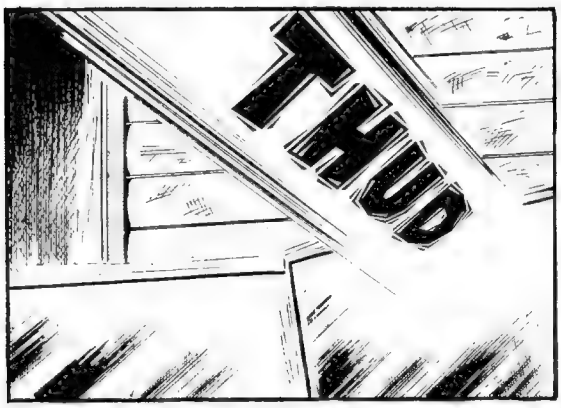
THAT'S WHY HE...?!

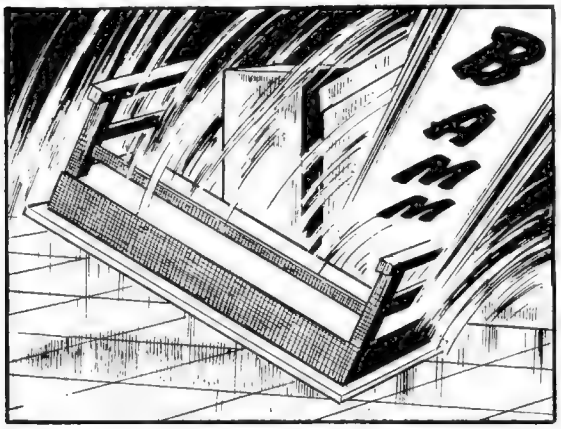
BUT I RAN AWAY!

THEN IT ATE HIM!


THE ONES WHO WERE UNCONSCIOUS WERE SPARED, AND THE ONES WHO WERE AWAKE WERE EATEN!
IT'S OBVIOUS!

I-I GET IT!

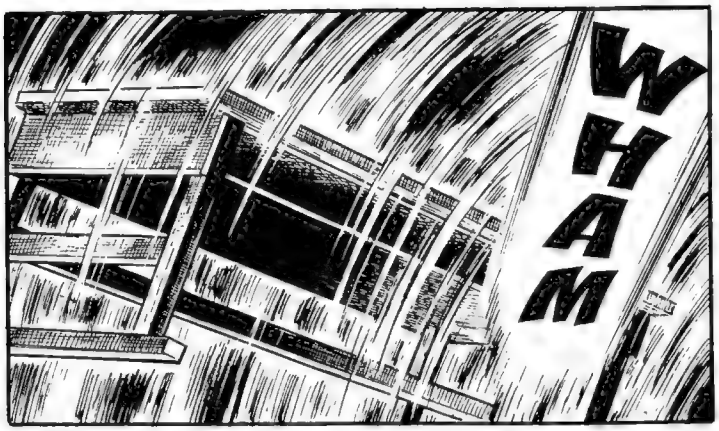

THUD


BAMM

IT'S COMING!
SHAAA

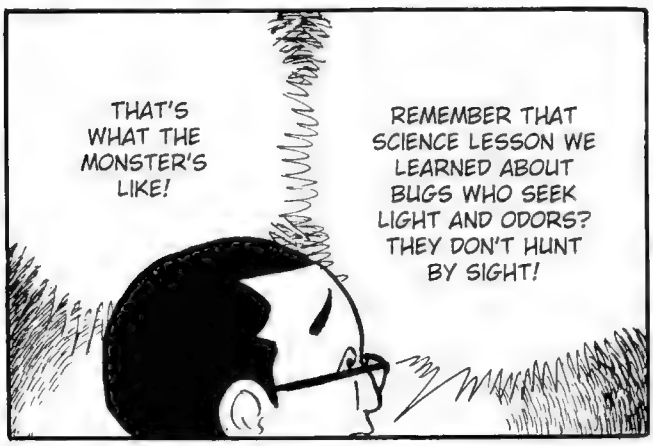
THUNK
KRAK

NO !!!

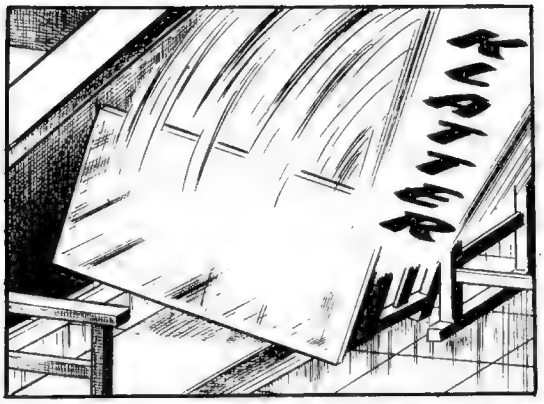

WHAM

TAKAMATSU!

IT'LL BREAK THROUGH!
IT'S NO USE! IT'S COMING UP HERE!


THAT'S WHAT THE MONSTER'S LIKE!
REMEMBER THAT SCIENCE LESSON WE LEARNED ABOUT BUGS WHO SEEK LIGHT AND ODORS? THEY DON'T HUNT BY SIGHT!

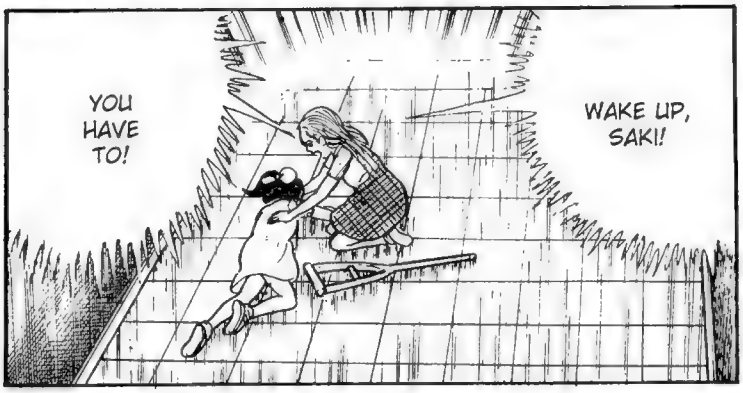
THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE THE MONSTER IS TO ELIMINATE YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS!


FUPATER

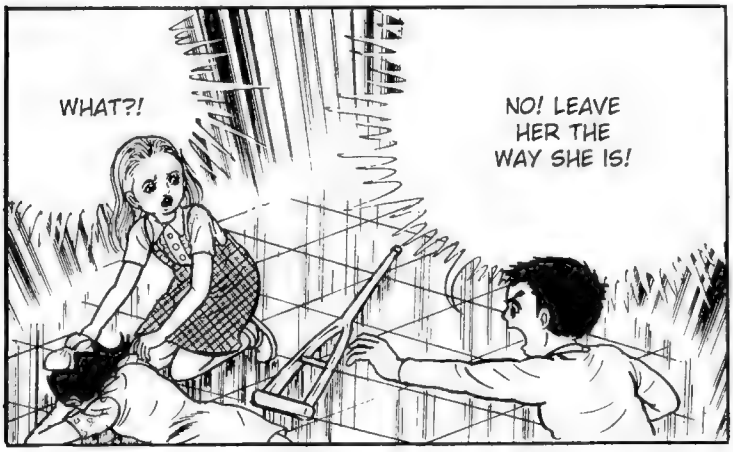
THUNK
KRAK

BAMM

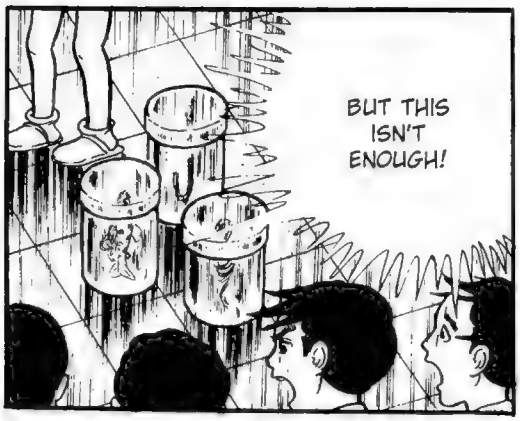
YES!
SO YOU WANT US ALL TO FAINT?!


YOU HAVE TO!
WAKE UP, SAKI!

AGGH!


WHAT?!
NO! LEAVE HER THE WAY SHE IS!

NNHH...


BUT THIS ISN'T ENOUGH!

CHLORO-FORM!?
WE'LL HAVE EVERYONE SMELL THIS CHLOROFORM! THAT'LL KNOCK THEM OUT!

THUD
KLATTER

WHAT ABOUT THE ONES WHO WON'T GET ANY?

W-WE'LL START WITH THE LOWER GRADERS! WE'LL SOAK IT INTO THEIR CLOTHES!

WAHH
WAHH
LISTEN! THE LITTLE KIDS ARE SCREAMING! WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM NOW!

WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO THINK ABOUT THIS!

ALL RIGHT!
EVERYBODY TAKE SOME CHLOROFORM! HELP ME!

WAHH
WAHH

WAAH!
WAAH!

SHFF

OKAY!
YOU TAKE CARE OF THE OTHER CLASSES!

AIEE!
QUICK!

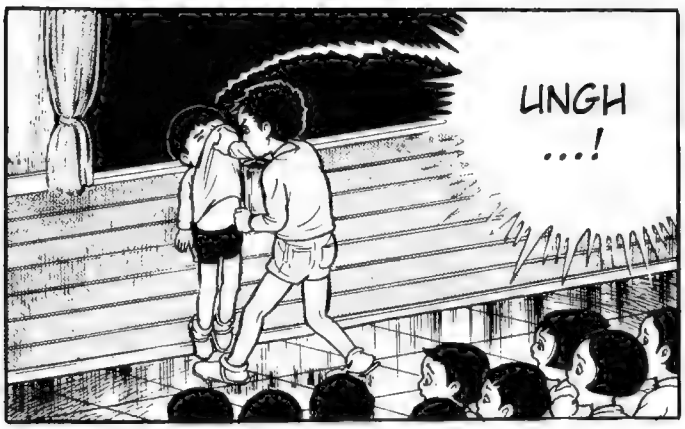
IT'LL PUT YOU TO SLEEP! THIS WILL SAVE YOU!

ALL RIGHT, FIRST GRADERS! SNIFF THIS MEDICINE!

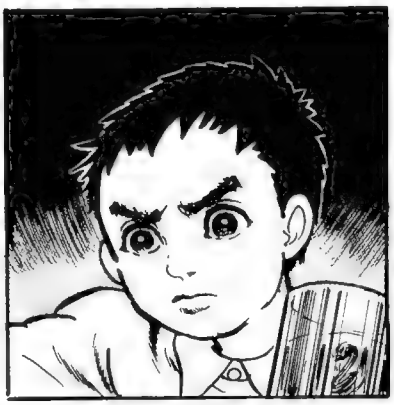
TO--!!

AGGH!
NO! IT SMELLS BAD!

NO! I DON'T WANT TO! I DON'T WANT--
COME ON! SMELL IT!


UNGH ...!

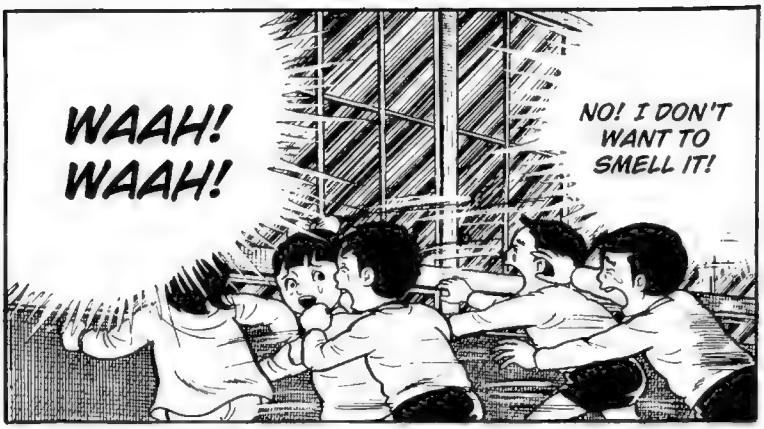
AIEE!

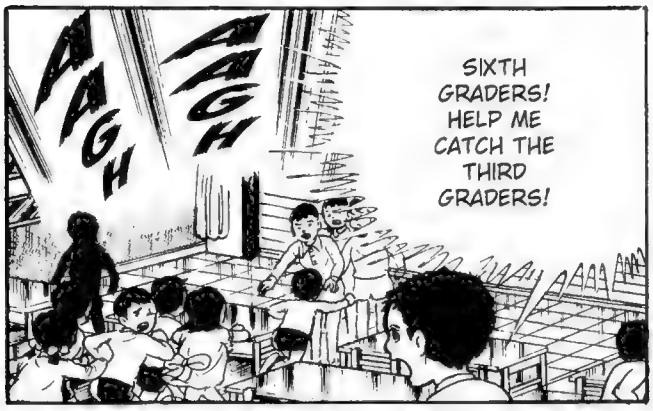


OHH...!

AIEEE!

IT WON'T HURT YOU!
WAIT!


WAAH! WAAH!
NO! I DON'T WANT TO SMELL IT!


AAGH
AAGH
SIXTH GRADERS! HELP ME CATCH THE THIRD GRADERS!

HE JUST FELL ASLEEP! IF YOU DON'T SLEEP, THE MONSTER WILL EAT YOU!

NO! NO!
WE HAVE TO HURRY!

MMGH!

WAAH!
NO! HELP ME!

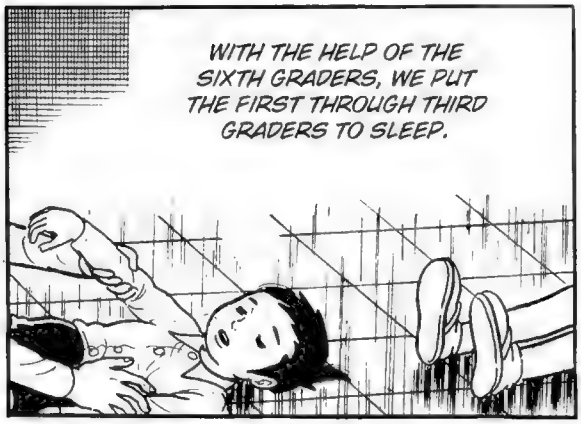
GGGH...
GG...

MMGH!

IT'S ALL RIGHT!
IT'S JUST SLEEP
MEDICINE!
WAHH
WAHH
けんさな子
はるしさくち

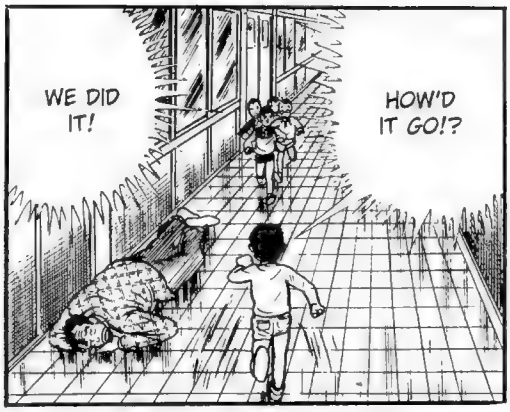
WAAH!
WAAH!
NO!

OKAY!
HELP ME OUT!
SOAK A TOWEL
WITH THIS!


WITH THE HELP OF THE
SIXTH GRADERS, WE PUT
THE FIRST THROUGH THIRD
GRADERS TO SLEEP.

NNHH!
MMFF
...!

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE?!


WE DID IT!
HOW'D IT GO!?

WE HAVE TO STOP THINKING!

WE'RE OUT OF CHLORO-FORM!

OR WE'LL DIE!
WE HAVE TO THINK OF NOTHING! WE HAVE TO BLANK OUT OUR MINDS!

H...H-HE'S RIGHT!

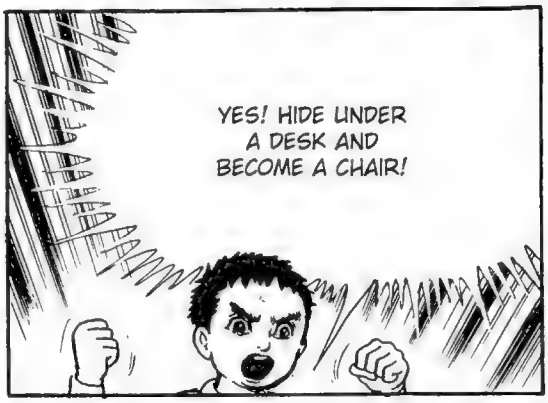
WHAT!?

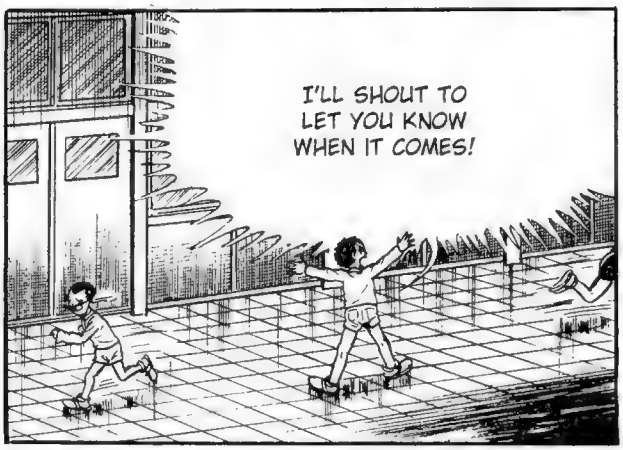
TH...TH...THEN WHAT ABOUT THIS?

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

A STONE, A DESK, IT DOESN'T MATTER. JUST CONCENTRATE ON BEING THAT THING!
THINK OF *TURNING INTO AN OBJECT!*

OKAY!
TELL EVERYONE! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!


YES! HIDE UNDER A DESK AND BECOME A CHAIR!

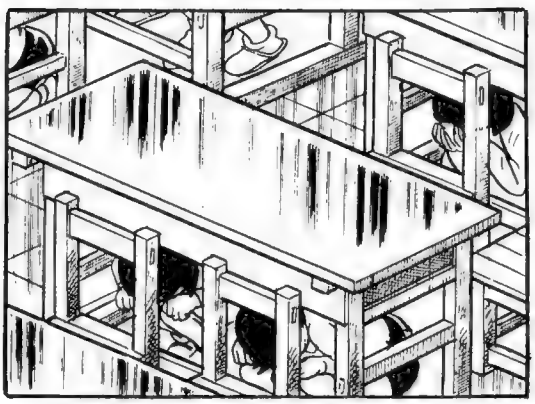

I'LL SHOUT TO LET YOU KNOW WHEN IT COMES!

IT'S PROBABLY HARD TO DO IT FOR VERY LONG. WE HAVE TO ENTER THAT STATE RIGHT BEFORE THE MONSTER GETS HERE!

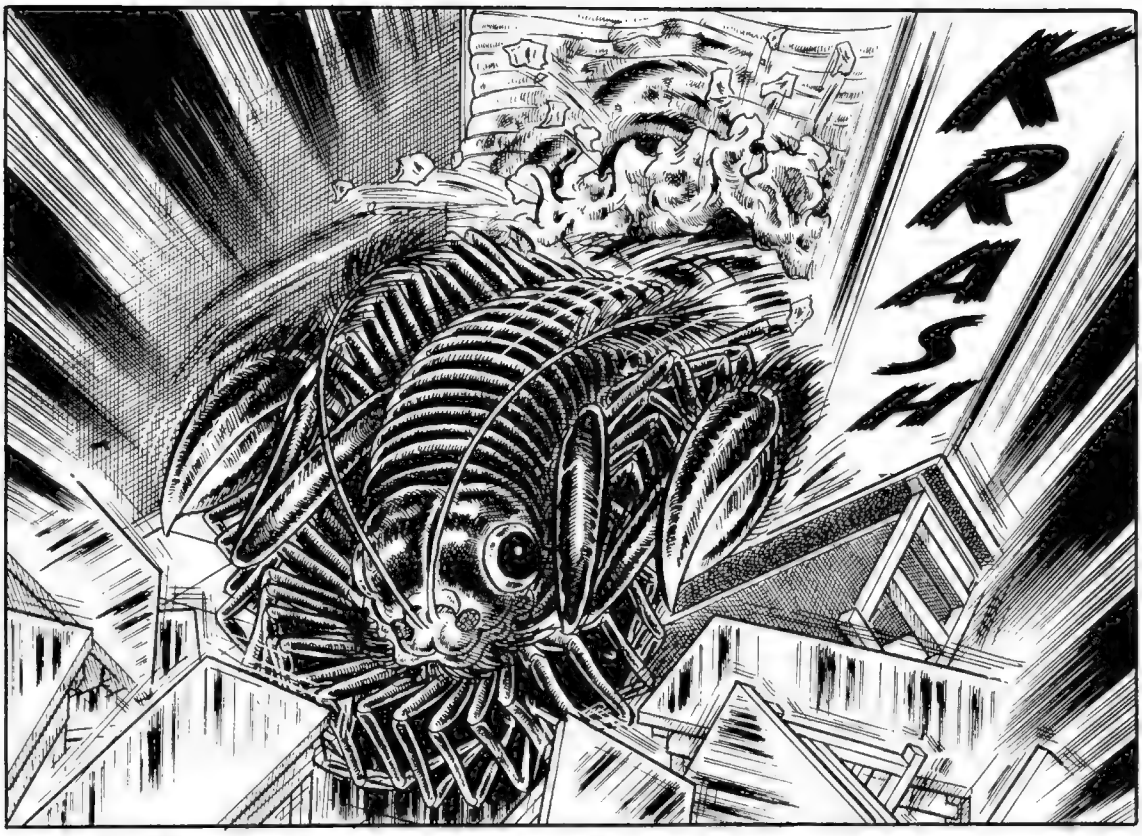
KLATA

...DON'T THINK ABOUT THE MONSTER. DON'T THINK OF ANYTHING BESIDES BEING A CHAIR!
ONCE YOU HEAR MY SIGNAL...

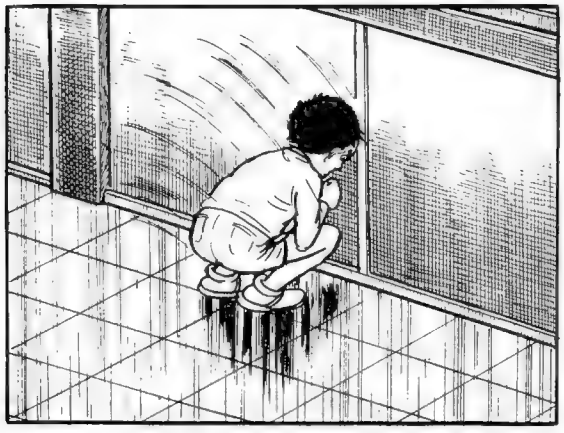
RIPP



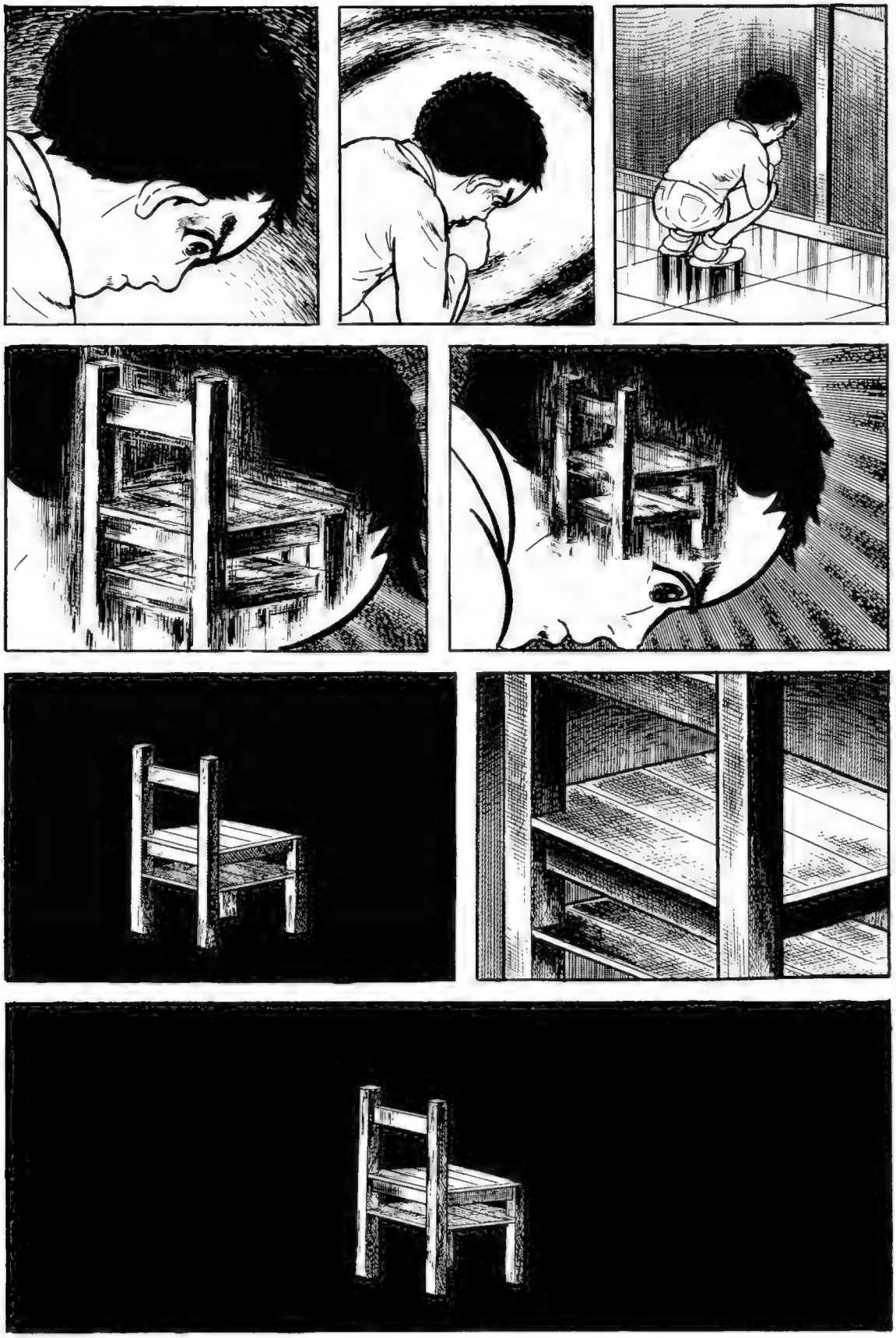
WHAM
IT'S HERE!

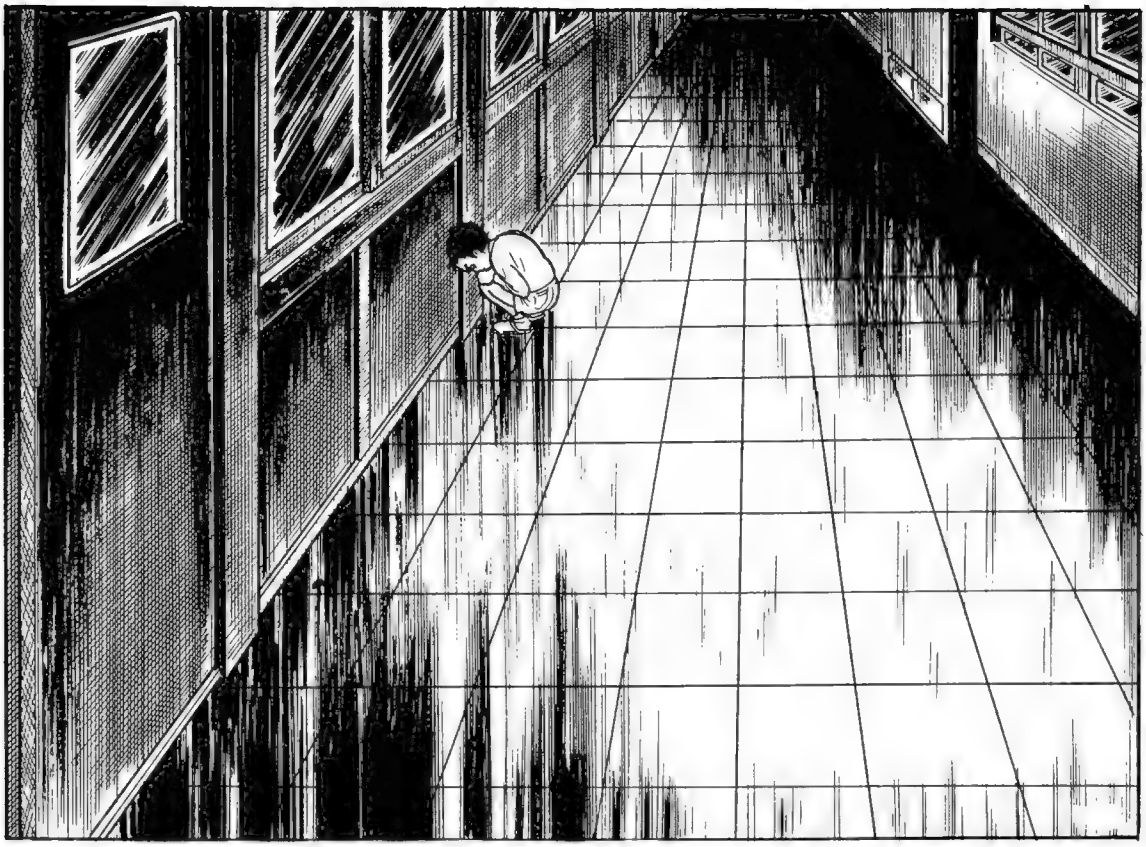

KRASH

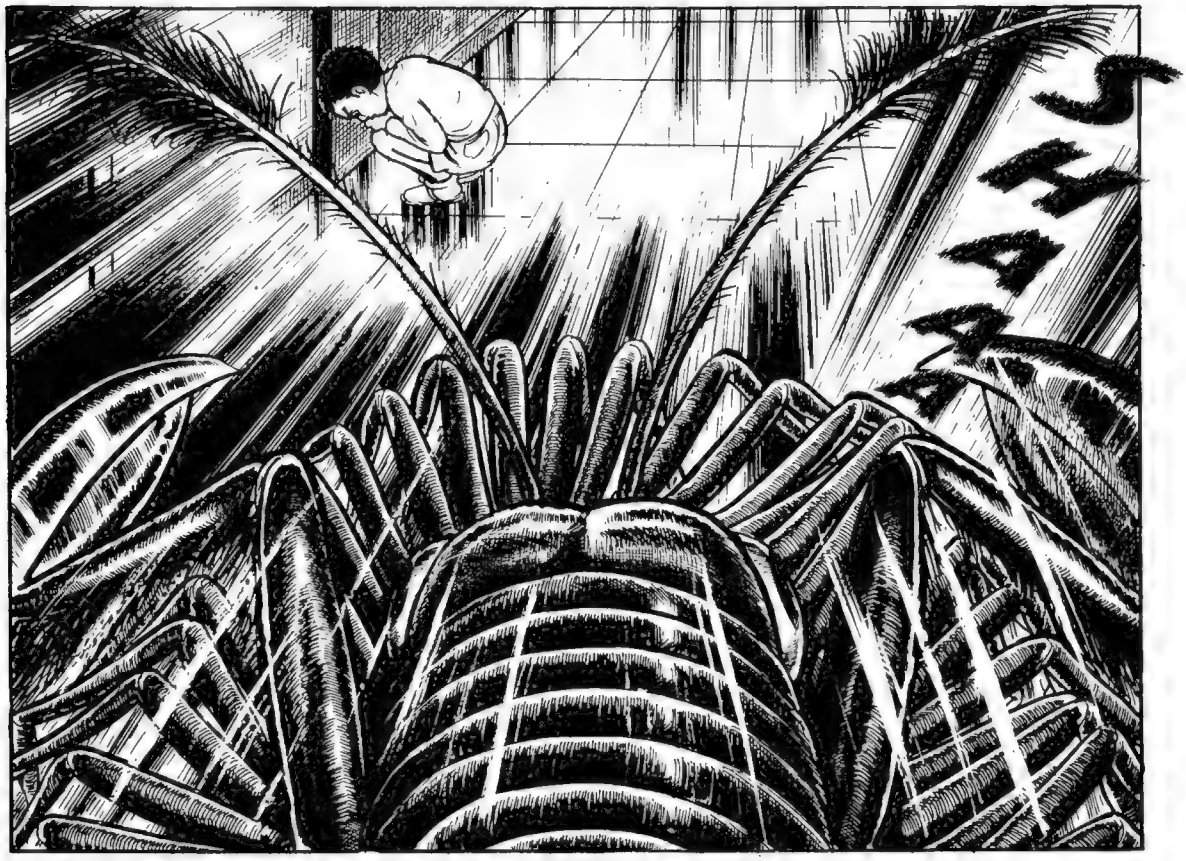
ONE, TWO, THREE!

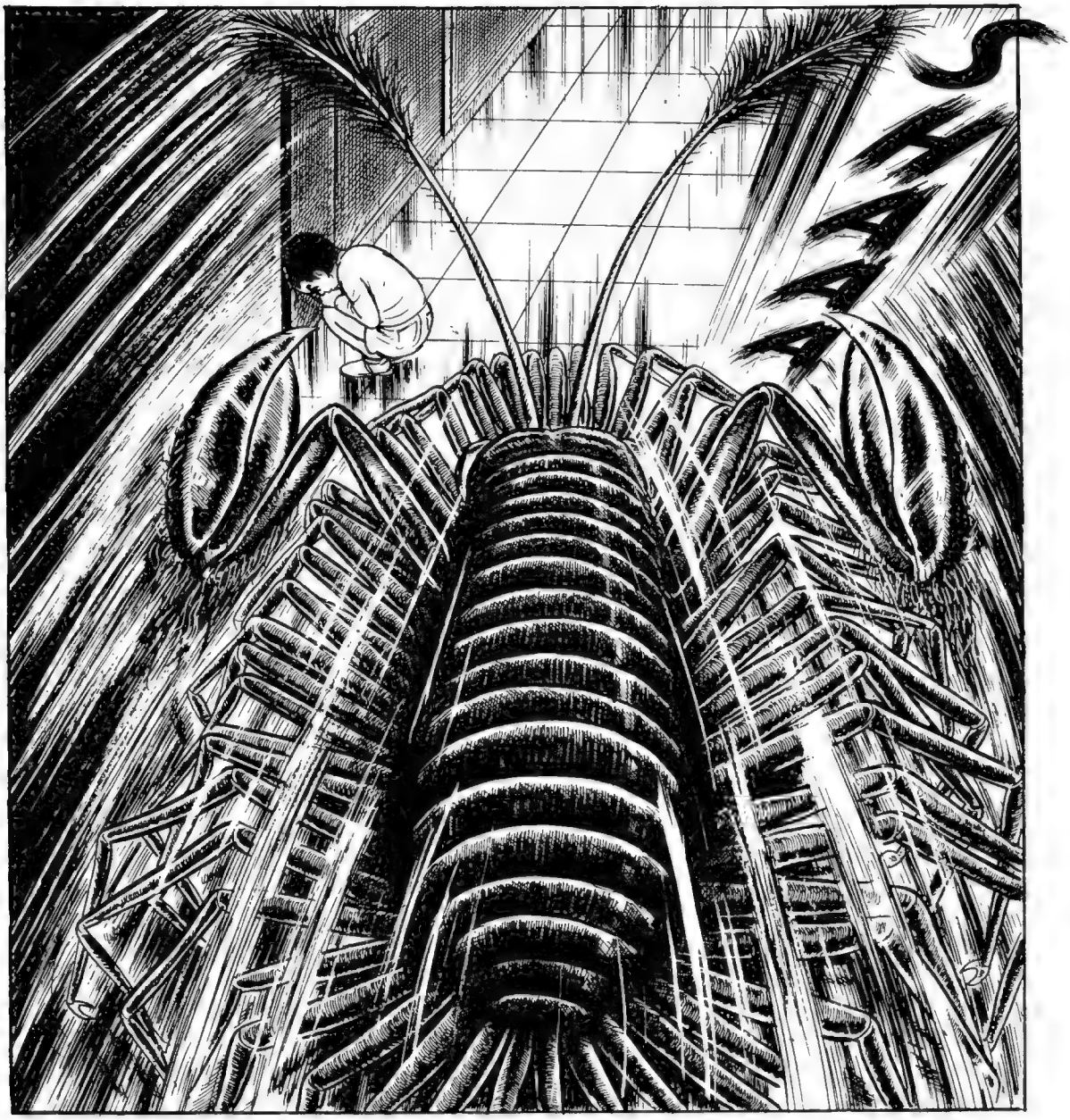


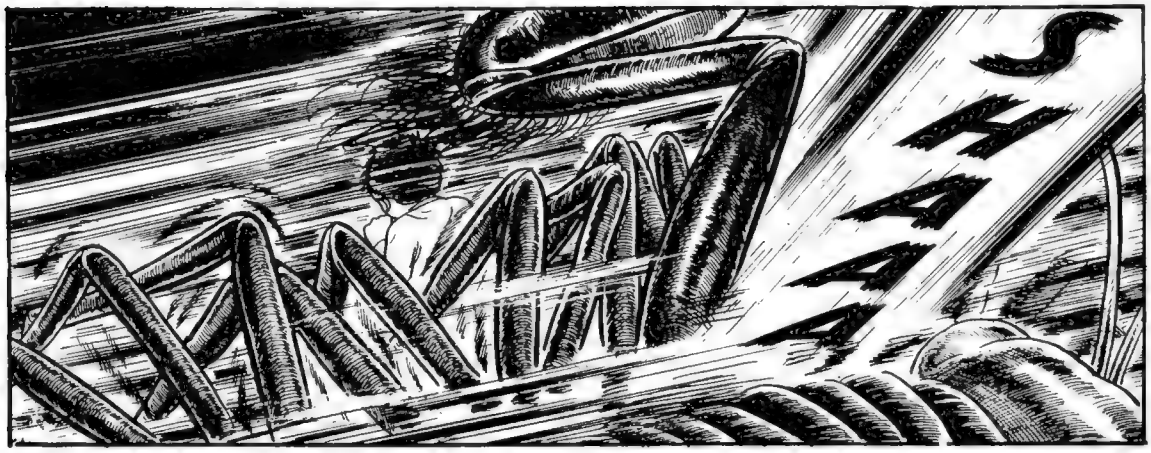
BECOME A CHAIR!



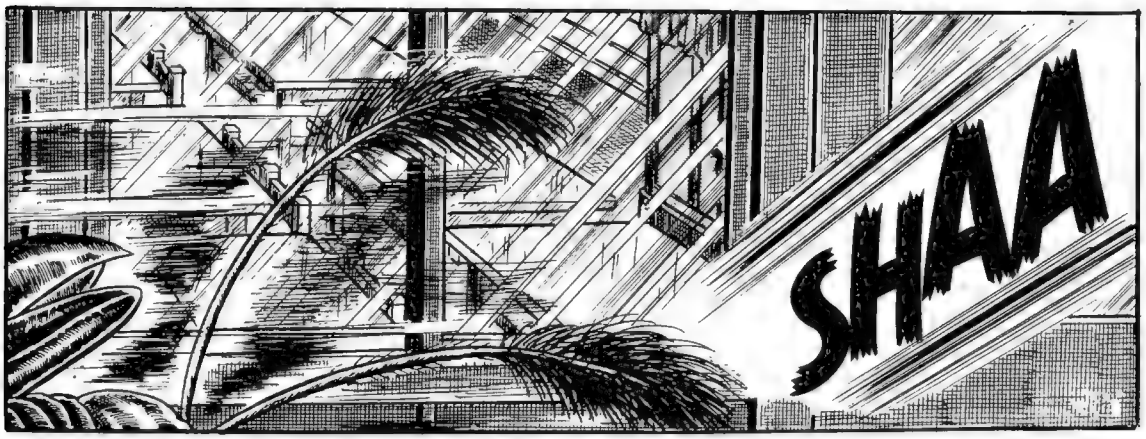


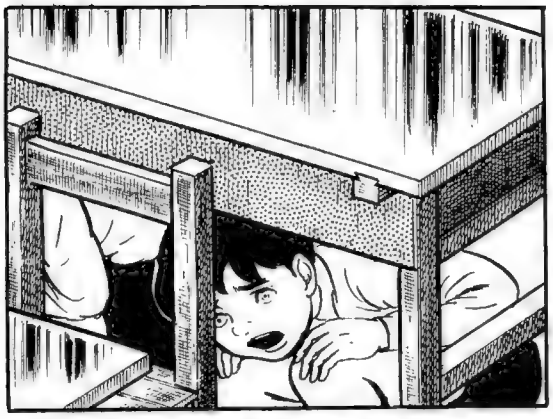

SHAAA

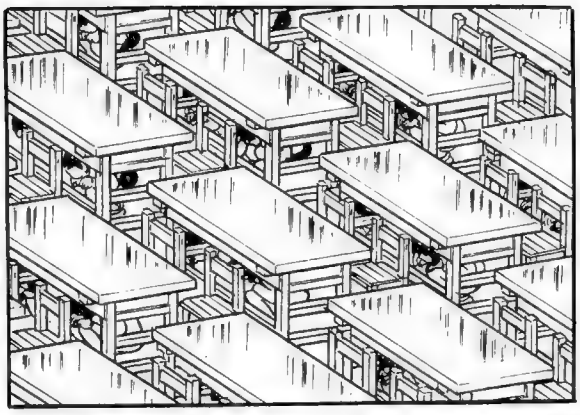

SHAAA


SHAAA

SHAAA


SHAA



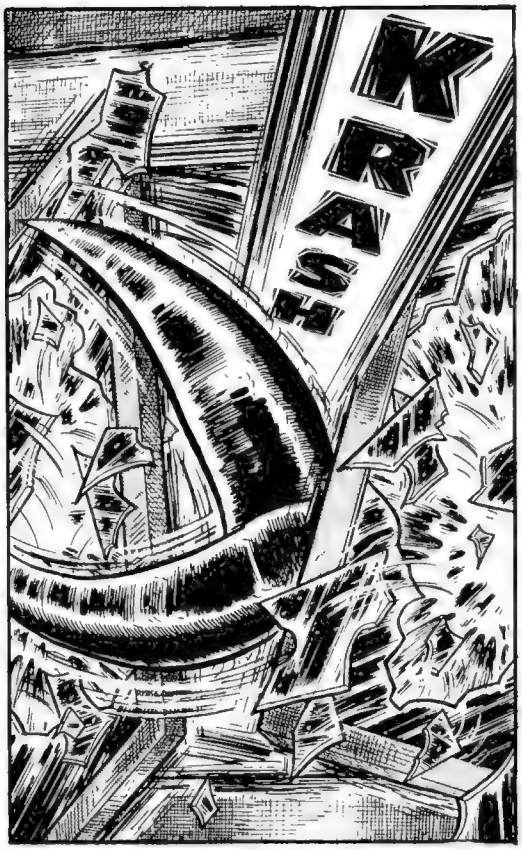


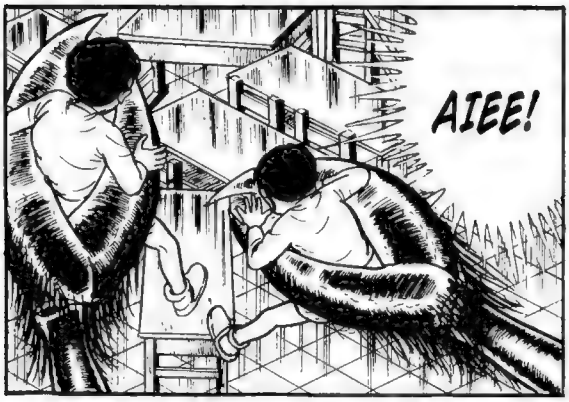
HEY! DON'T!
I CAN'T TAKE IT!

AAGGHH!
KATUMP

AGGH!

WAAGHH!
SHAA


KRASH


AIEE!

EEEK!

THUMP
THUMP

KLATA

KRNCH

RIPP
KRAK
GYAA!
AGGH!
SMASH
SMASH
WHUPP
SKRASH
SHAAA
KLKKA

WHUD

WE MADE IT!

WE MADE IT!

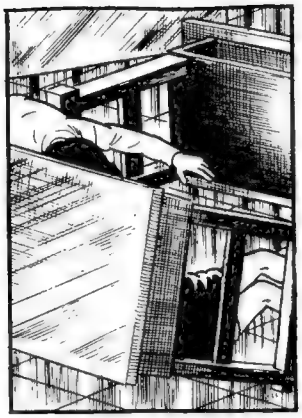
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG I WAS IN THAT STATE. I PUSHED MYSELF TO THE LIMIT.

YAAY!

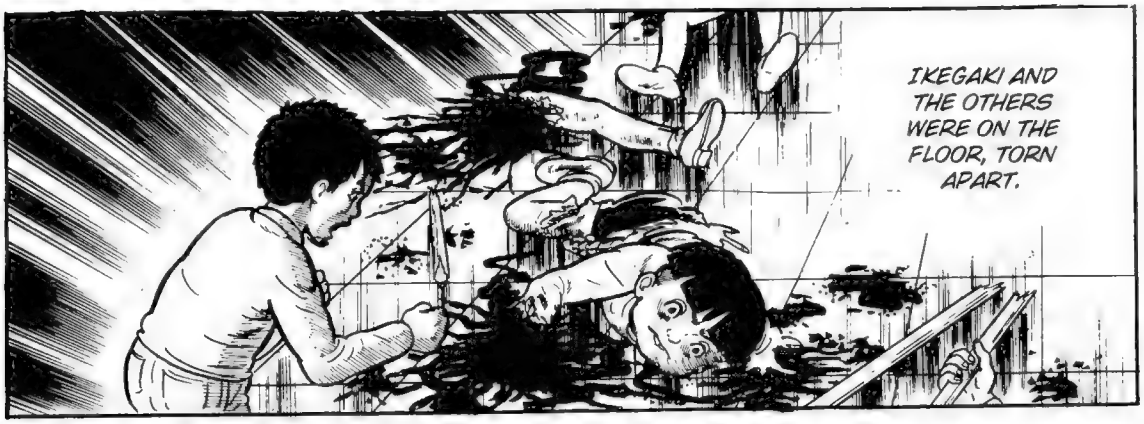
THE MONSTER'S GONE!
EVERYONE, WE MADE IT!

IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT!?
TAKAMATSU!

I RAN DOWNSTAIRS.



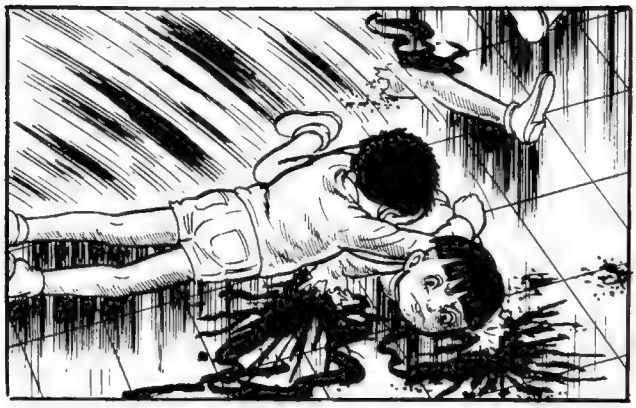
WE LOOKED AROUND AND FOUND THE MANGLED BODIES OF THE PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T CONCENTRATE.


IKEGAKI AND THE OTHERS WERE ON THE FLOOR, TORN APART.

Y-YOU F-F...

I-IKEGAKI!

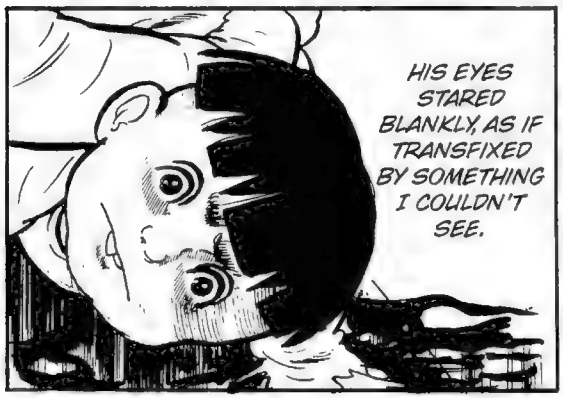
...BUT THE WORDS STUCK IN MY THROAT.
I TRIED TO SAY "YOU FOUGHT TO THE VERY END"...

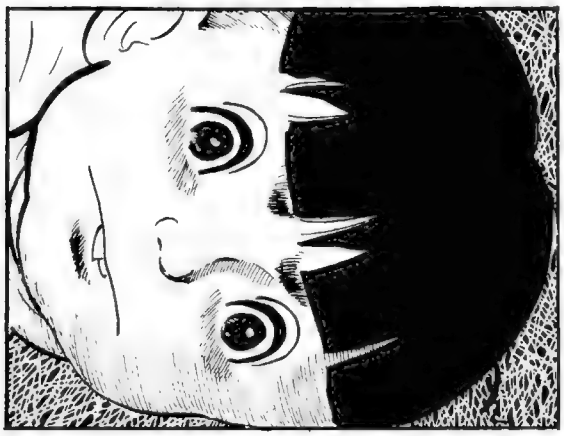


IKEGAKI!

...BUT FOR SOME REASON, IT WASN'T GROSS TO ME AT ALL.
IKEGAKI WAS MANGLED SO BADLY THAT HIS GUTS WERE SPILLED ON THE FLOOR...

SOB...


HIS EYES STARED BLANKLY, AS IF TRANSFIXED BY SOMETHING I COULDN'T SEE.



SOB!!

CHAPTER 16:
A DESPERATE ACT

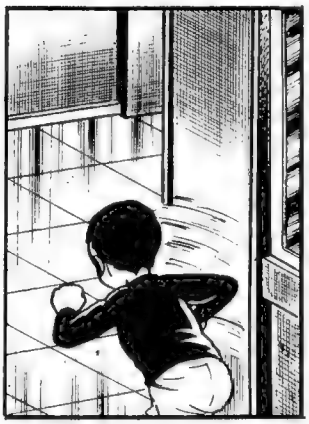
D-DAMN IT! WE HAVE TO GET RID OF THAT MONSTER! IF WE DON'T, WE'RE DEAD! WE'LL HUNT IT DOWN AND AVENGE IKEGAKI!

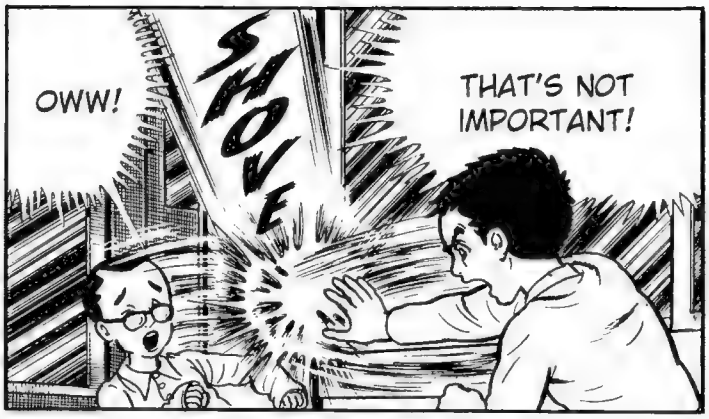
WE'LL KILL THAT DAMN MONSTER!

O-OKAY!
TELL THE FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADERS WE'RE LEAVING NOW!

TH-THAT BOY IS CRYING FOR FOOD AGAIN!

UM, UM, TAKAMATSU ...!

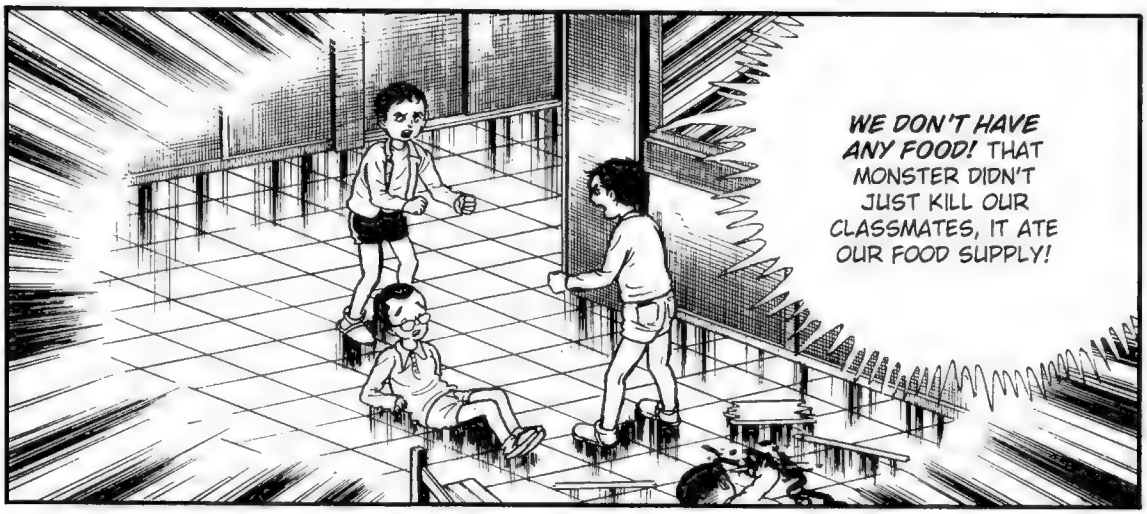



OWW!
SHOVE
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT!

PLEASE! GIVE ME FOOD!

TAKAMATSU!

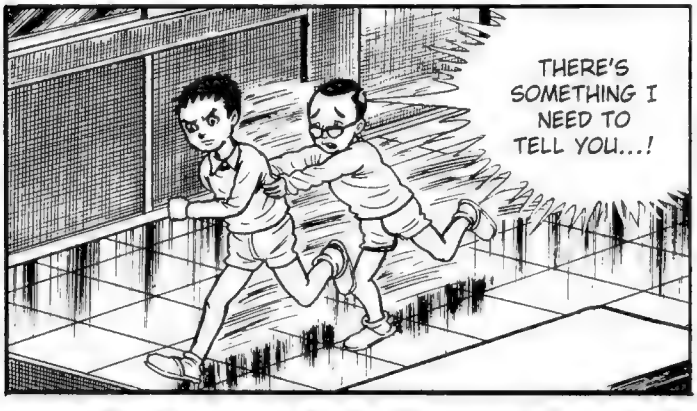
PLEASE!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!


WE DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD! THAT MONSTER DIDN'T JUST KILL OUR CLASSMATES, IT ATE OUR FOOD SUPPLY!

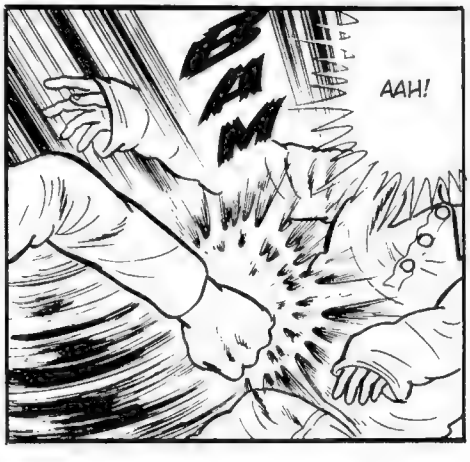
WHAT ...?

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU!

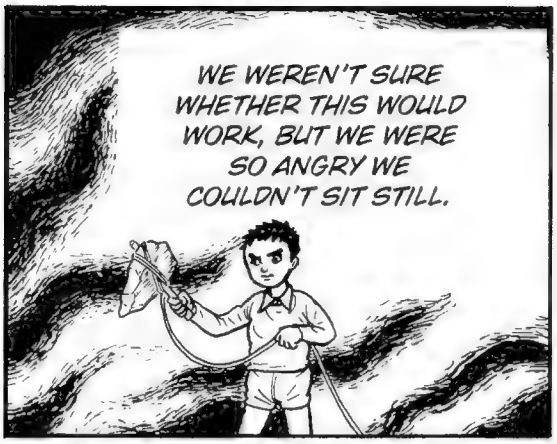
W-W-WAIT! TAKAMATSU!
TH-THE MONSTER ATE THE FOOD...?


THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU...!

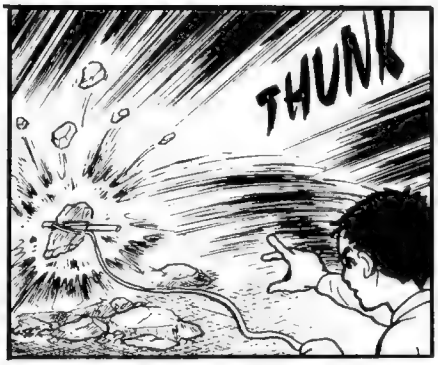
UM...UH...IF YOU COULD WAIT A MINUTE...


BAM
AAH!

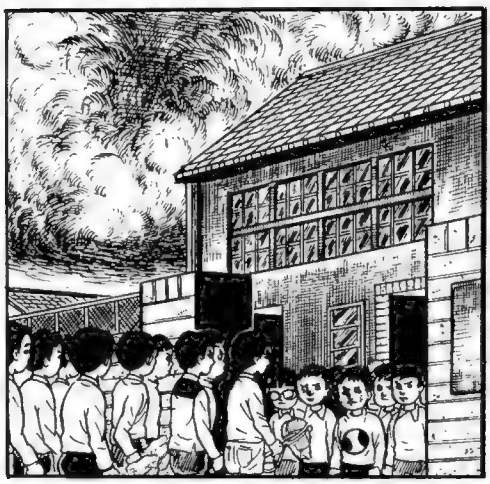
WE BROKE APART CONCRETE BLOCKS AND MADE STONE AXES OUT OF THEM.


WE WEREN'T SURE WHETHER THIS WOULD WORK, BUT WE WERE SO ANGRY WE COULDN'T SIT STILL.

THEN WE TIED THEM TO ROPES SO WE COULD THROW THEM AND GET THEM BACK.

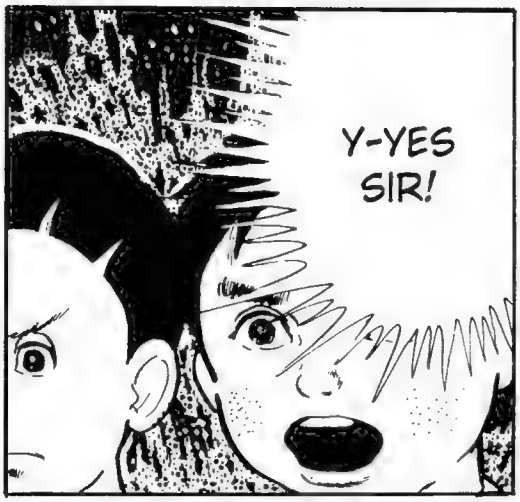

THUNK

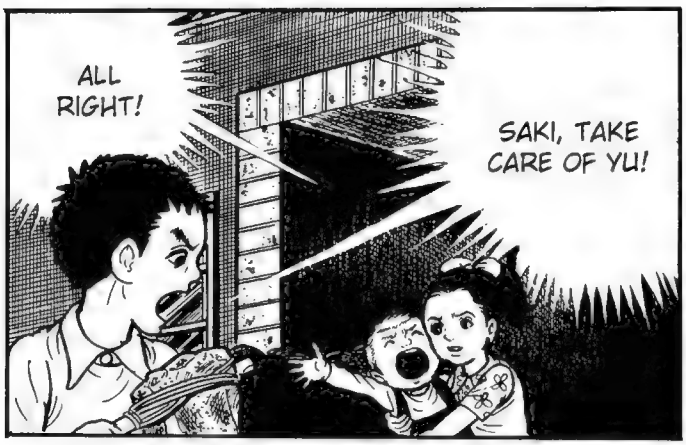
IF WE DON'T MAKE IT BACK...



...YOU FOURTH GRADERS HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THE SCHOOL!

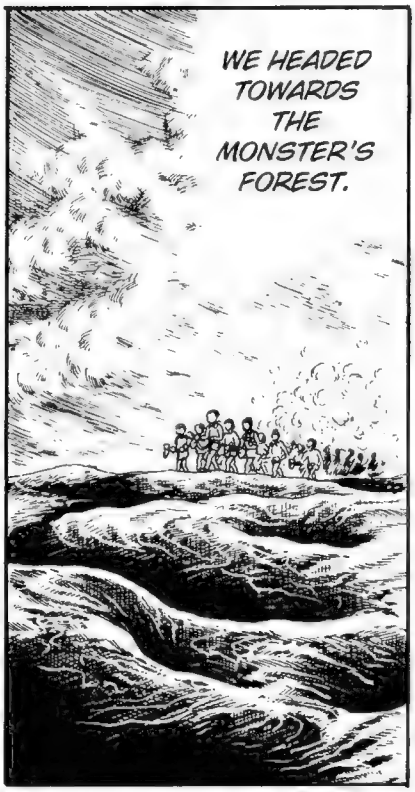
SHO!
GOOD LUCK, SHO!


Y-YES SIR!

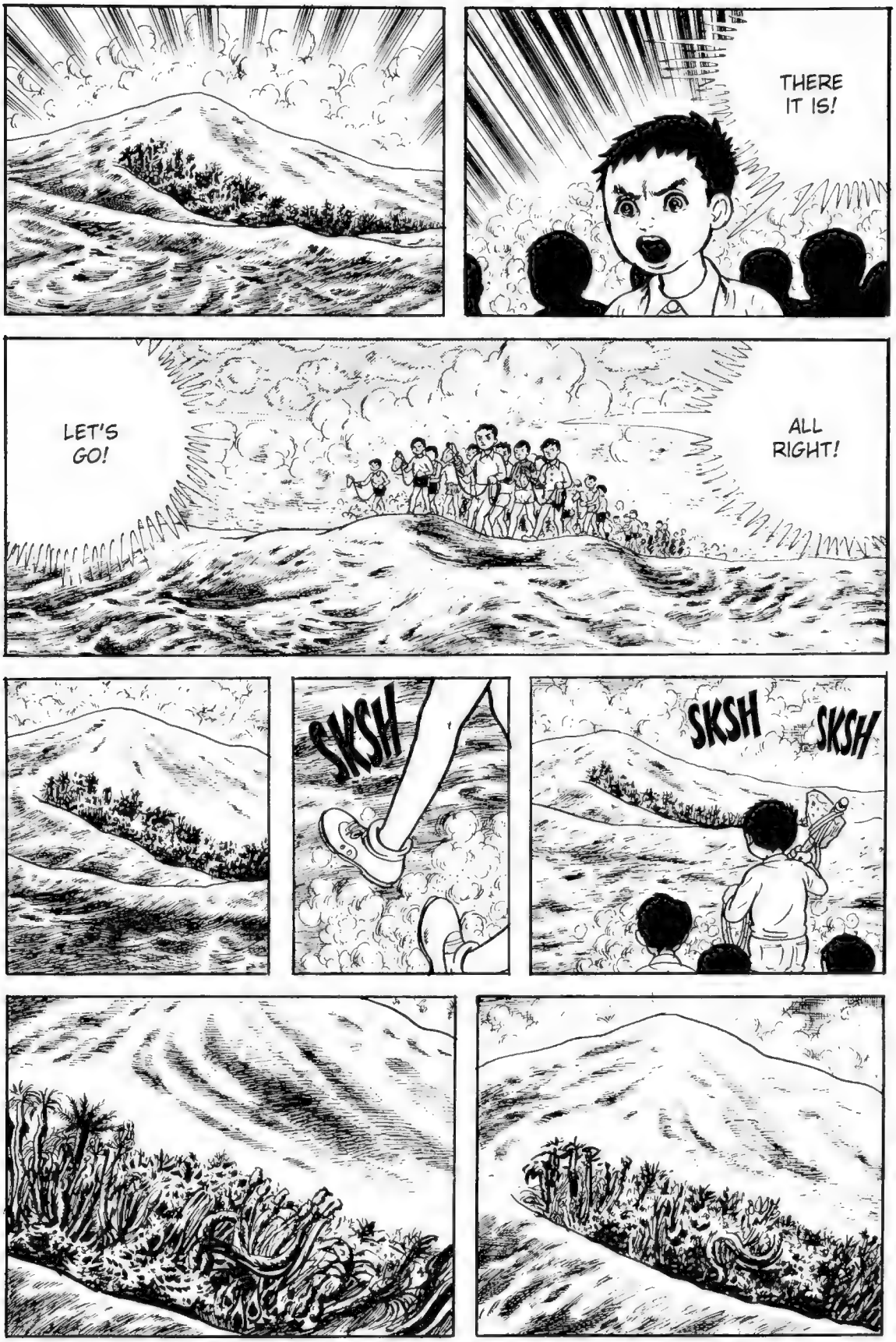

ALL RIGHT!
SAKI, TAKE CARE OF YU!

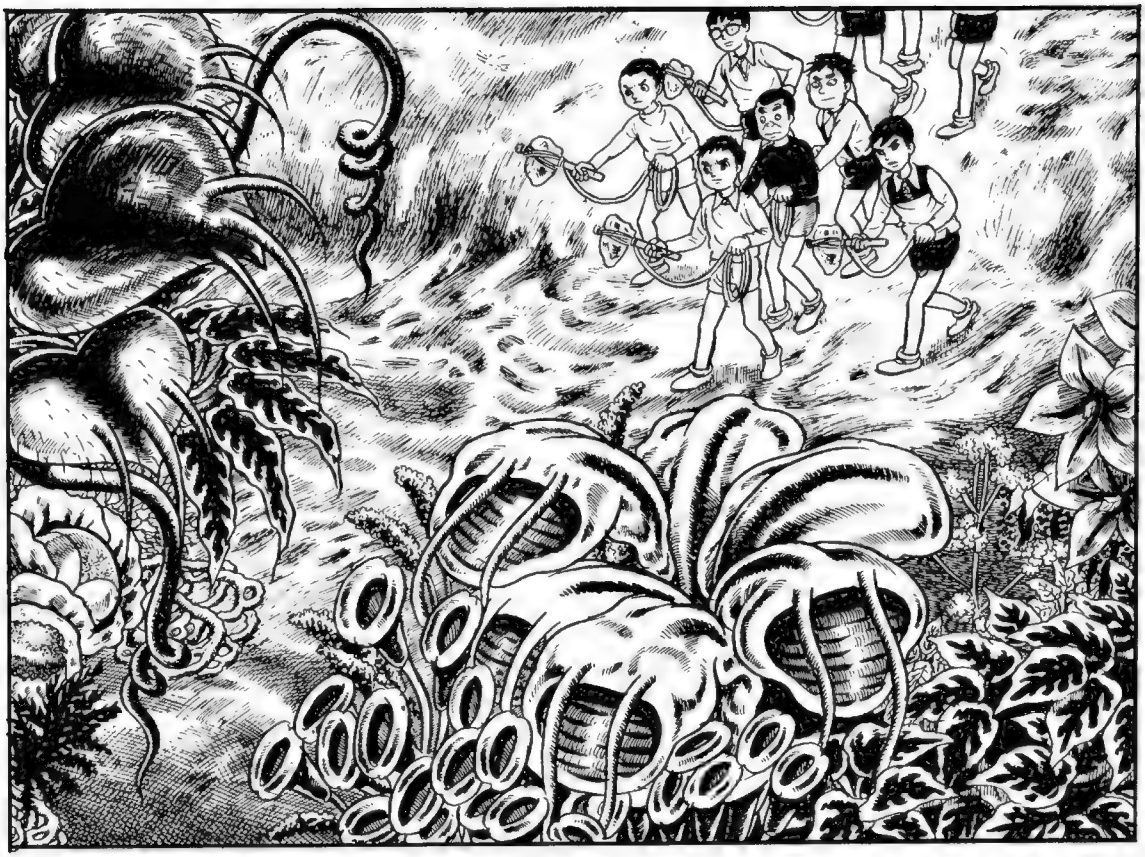
I WANNA GO TOO!

IT'S EITHER US OR THE MONSTER! IF WE DON'T STOP IT, IT'LL KILL US ALL!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET GOING!


WE HEADED TOWARDS THE MONSTER'S FOREST.

SKSH
SKSH


THERE IT IS!
LET'S GO!
ALL RIGHT!
SKSH
SKSH
SKSH



SHFF

I GOT IT!
YOUR GROUP GO AROUND AND COME IN FROM THE OTHER SIDE!

SHFF
WE SPLIT UP AND WENT INTO THE STRANGE FOREST ...

RUSTLE
SHF
HERE IT COMES!
ATTACK IT!
RUSTLE

AH!

IT'S US!

H-HOLD ON!

DIDN'T YOU GUYS FIND IT?

WHERE'S THE MONSTER?
OTOMO!

WE HAVEN'T FOUND IT EITHER! WE LOOKED ALL OVER!

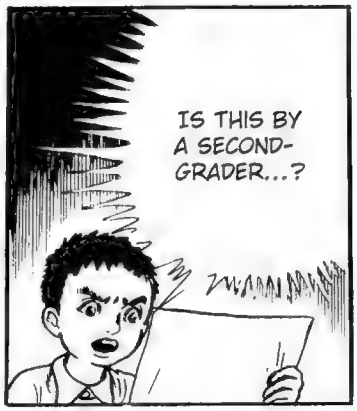
WHAT?
IT'S NOWHERE!

N-NO!

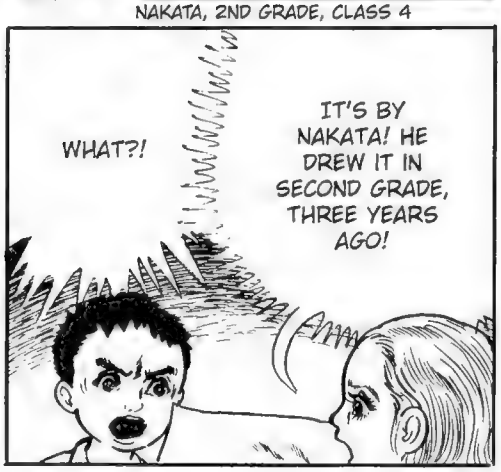
M-MAYBE IT'S ATTACKING OUR SCHOOL!

THUD
I-I'M HUNGRY!
NNHH ...!
AH! F-FRUIT!
NAKATA!
PLEASE! SOMEBODY ...DOES ANYBODY HAVE SOME FOOD?
I NEED TO EAT!
PLEASE! I'M STARVING!
YOU CAN'T EAT IT! IT'LL TURN TO SAND!
STOP HIM!
TAKAMATSU!
TAKAMATSU!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU JUST ATE BEFORE WE CAME HERE!

SKID
OH...!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE! WHAT'S WRONG?
NISHI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
LOOK AT THIS!
THE SCHOOL IS FINE! BUT I NEEDED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
...BUT I COULDN'T CATCH UP BECAUSE OF MY BAD LEGS!
I RAN AFTER YOU, RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT...
AH!!
WH-WHAT IS THIS...?



NAKATA, 2ND GRADE, CLASS 4



HE HAS A GREAT IMAGINATION. HE WAS ALWAYS GOOD AT DRAWING.
NAKATA'S PARENTS ARE REALLY RICH. HE'S VERY KIND, BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN NERVOUS AROUND PEOPLE.
I WAS IN NAKATA'S CLASS THAT YEAR.
I REMEMBER THIS DRAWING.
I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I DREW. I'M SURE NAKATA DOESN'T REMEMBER DRAWING THIS EITHER.
YOUR WHAT?!
THIS PICTURE WAS FOR AN ASSIGNMENT WHEN THE TEACHER TOLD US TO DRAW OUR WORST NIGHTMARE!
HE EVEN DREW THE STRANGE PLANTS AND THINGS!
HOW COULD HE HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE MONSTER SO LONG BEFORE WE CAME HERE?
BUT ISN'T IT WEIRD?
TH-THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT! IT'S...IT'S ABOUT NAKATA!
SH-SHO!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

WHAT ?!
...ARE A FIGMENT OF HIS IMAGINATION!
UM... MAYBE THAT MONSTER AND THESE PLANTS...
...YOU SAID YOURSELF HOW THERE WEREN'T ANY PLANTS HERE BEFORE!
UM... UH... WELL...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHH!
BUT WE CAN *TOUCH* THEM! THAT MONSTER KILLED SO MANY PEOPLE!
WHAT IF NAKATA'S FEARS ENDED UP PRODUCING THESE HALLUCINATIONS?
BASED ON WATCHING NAKATA...
TH...THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I DISCOVERED!
ER... UH... UM...

...THE MONSTER SHOWED UP EVERY TIME NAKATA ATE SOMETHING!
ON TOP OF THAT...
DID YOU NOTICE THAT WE FOUND THE FOREST AT THE SAME TIME AS NAKATA'S FIRST HUNGER FIT?
WH-WHAT IF NAKATA IS ALWAYS STARVING BECAUSE THE MONSTER OF HIS FANTASIES FEEDS OFF THE ENERGY OF THE FOOD HE CONSUMES...?
M-MAYBE THE MONSTER WON'T SHOW UP BECAUSE NAKATA IS HUNGRY!
I DIDN'T EAT MY BISCUIT. LET'S GIVE IT TO NAKATA.
IT'S ONLY A HYPOTHESIS. WE HAVE TO CONFIRM IT.
WH-WHAT!?
EAT THIS!
FOOD!
NAKATA!

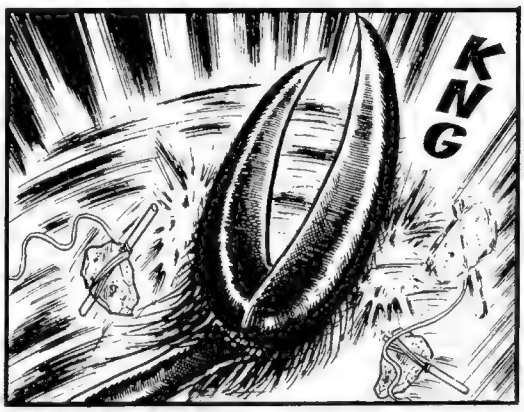
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
OH...!
AGH!
TUMP
I NEED IT!
GIVE ME THAT!
BUH BUH...!
S-SEKIYA!
FOOD, FOOD!
SHFF
FOOD!
CHOMP
CHOMP

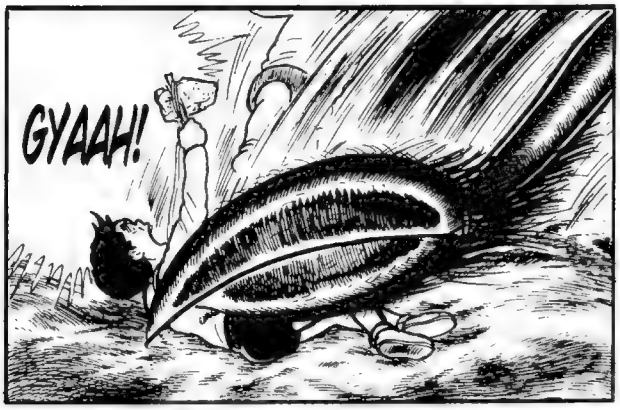
WAH!
WUH!!
NAKATA, STOP!
SEKIYA! NO!
GLUT GLUT
UNGH ...
GULP
MUNCH
MUNCH
DON'T SWING THAT!
HEY!
GULP

IT'S HERE!
AGGH!
YAH!
LET'S GET IT!
KLANG
AIEE!

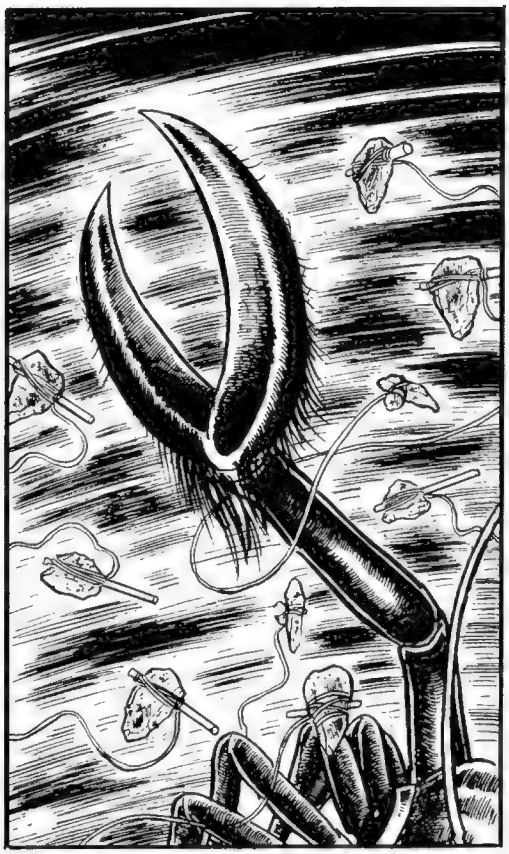
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG

AGGKK!


KNG


GYAAH!

DAMN IT!

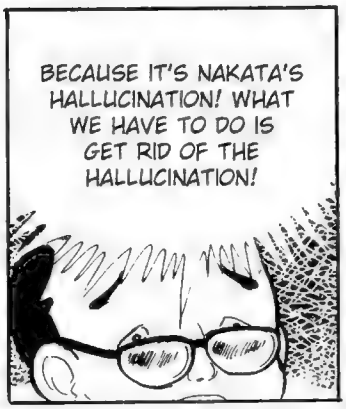


ALL RIGHT, TIE IT UP!
THEN I'LL FINISH IT OFF!
NOW!
SNIPP
D-D- DON'T DO IT!
WAIT, SHO!
TAKE THIS!

PLEASE, SHO. NO MATTER WHAT WE DO, WE CAN'T KILL IT.

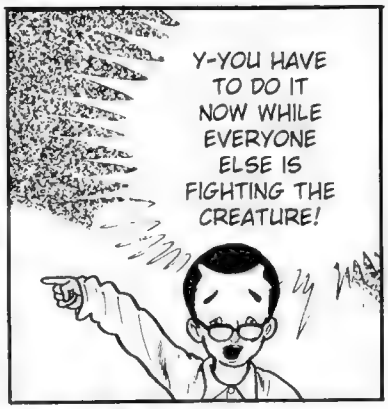
EVERYONE STOP! IT'S USELESS!

MAYBE IF WE SHOCK NAKATA, THE HALLUCINATION WILL GO AWAY!


BECAUSE IT'S NAKATA'S HALLUCINATION! WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS GET RID OF THE HALLUCINATION!

WHY!?

ALL RIGHT!

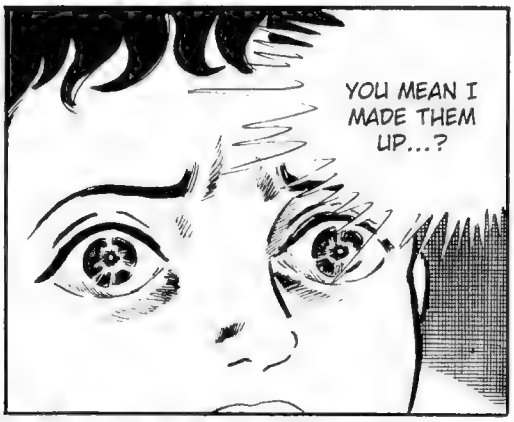

Y-YOU HAVE TO DO IT NOW WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS FIGHTING THE CREATURE!

HUH?

NAKATA!

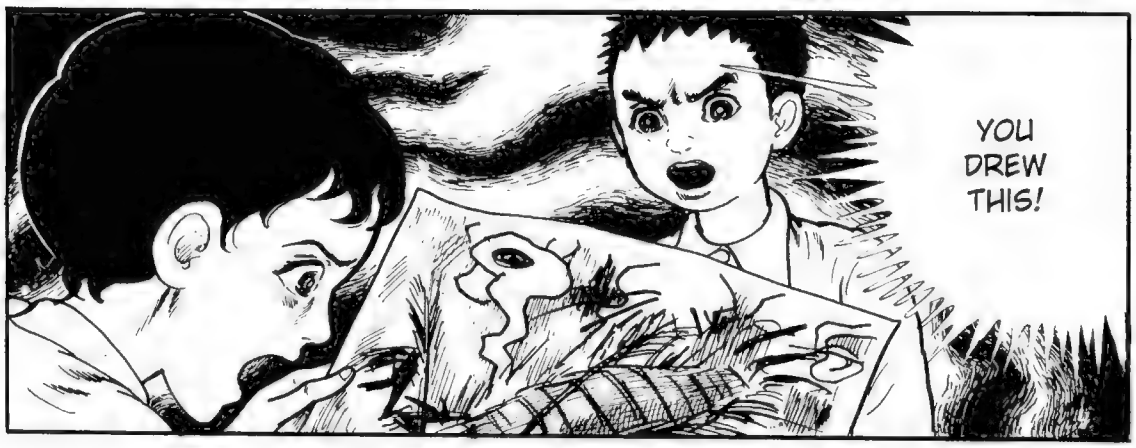
WHAT?!
LISTEN! THIS MONSTER AND ALL THESE PLANTS...THEY'RE PART OF YOUR IMAGINATION!

THAT'S RIGHT!


YOU MEAN I MADE THEM UP...?

GASP!

LOOK AT THIS DRAWING!


YOU DREW THIS!

DO YOU REMEMBER!?

YOU'RE CRAZY!

YOU DREW IT, AND NOW YOU MADE IT REAL! YOU'RE MAKING IT REAL WITH YOUR BRAIN!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?!

IMAGINE SOMETHING NICER!
YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF THESE THOUGHTS!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THIS ISN'T MY IMAGINATION!

LET GO OF ME!

LET GO OF ME!
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

UNGGH!

MUH!

UNGH! UNGH!

AGH!
BAM

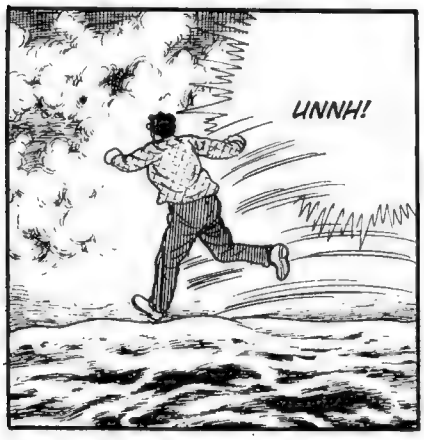
SEKIYA! STOP!

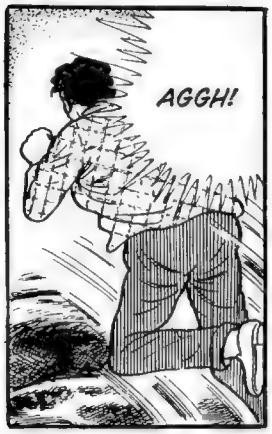
STOP!

COME BACK HERE!

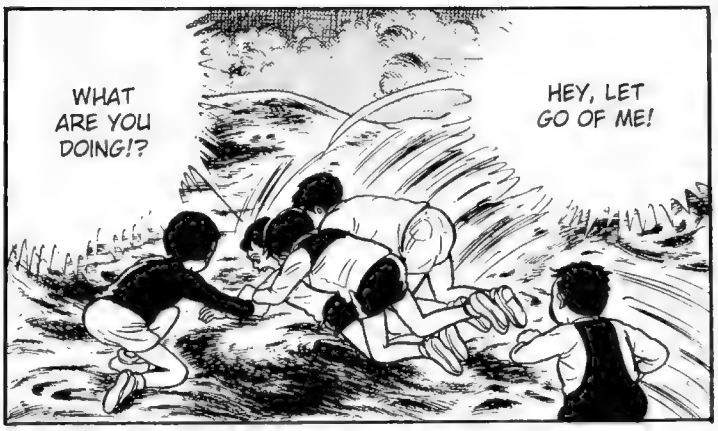
WHAM

WHUD


UNNH!


AGGH!

GYEE!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
HEY, LET GO OF ME!

NO! LET ME GO!

AGGH!

TIE HIM UP WITH THIS ROPE!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD SHOCK HIM!

I-I DON'T KNOW!

SHO, EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT, HOW WILL WE STOP HIM FROM IMAGINING THE MONSTER?

OKAY, WE'LL TIE HIM TO THAT TREE!

HELP ME!

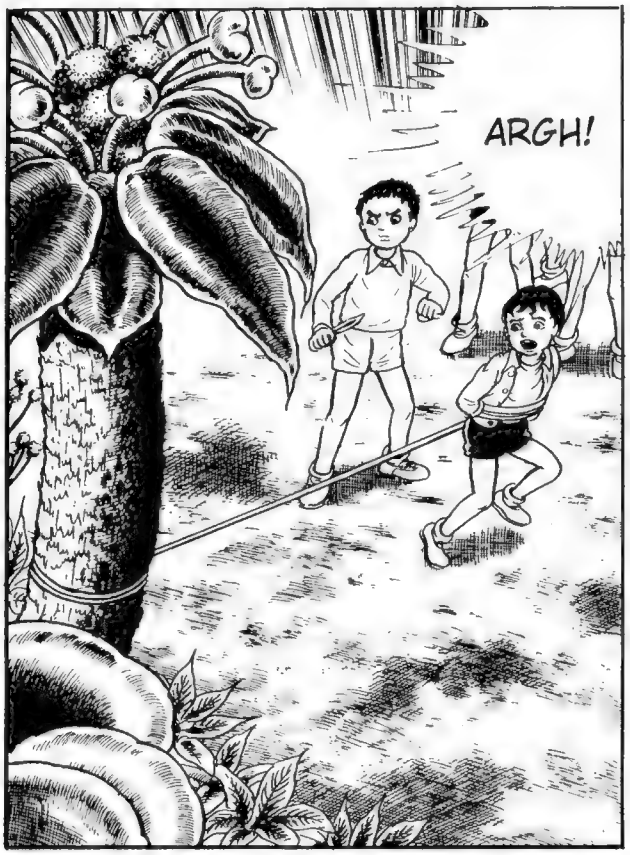
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

NO!
COME HERE! STOP STRUGGLING!

SOMEBODY HELP!

YOU MADE UP THESE PLANTS AND TREES! YOU'RE THE ONLY WHO CAN GET RID OF THEM!

YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF THEM OR YOU'LL BE STUCK HERE FOREVER!


ARGH!

GET RID OF YOUR FANTASIES!
NO! THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

HEY!
GIVE ME THAT KNIFE!

YOU'RE BEING TOO EASY ON HIM!

WHAT?!
I'M GOING TO KILL HIM!

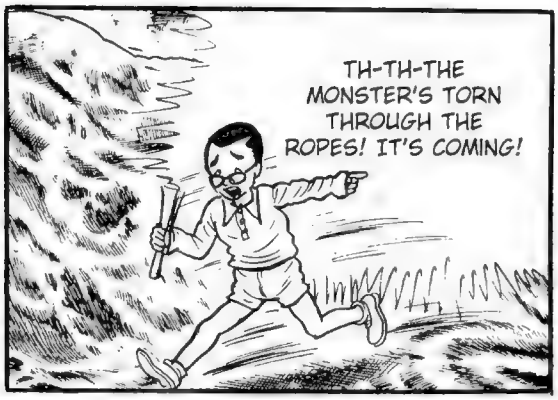
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

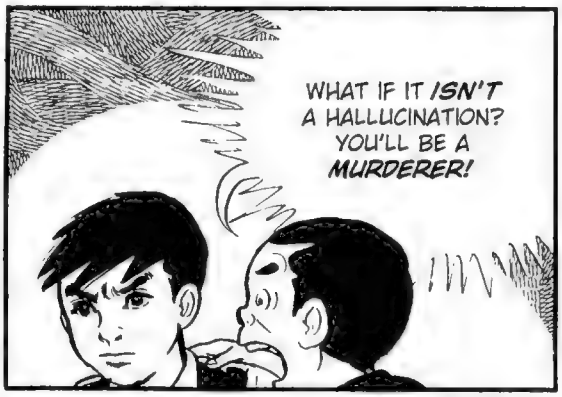
IT'S SIMPLE! IF IT'S COMING FROM HIS BRAIN, IT'LL GO AWAY WHEN HE'S DEAD!

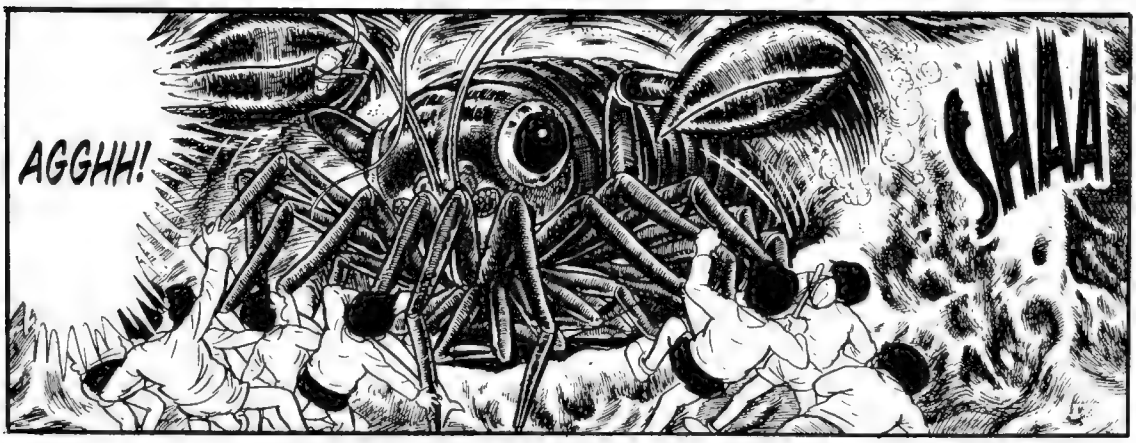
I'M KILLING HIM!

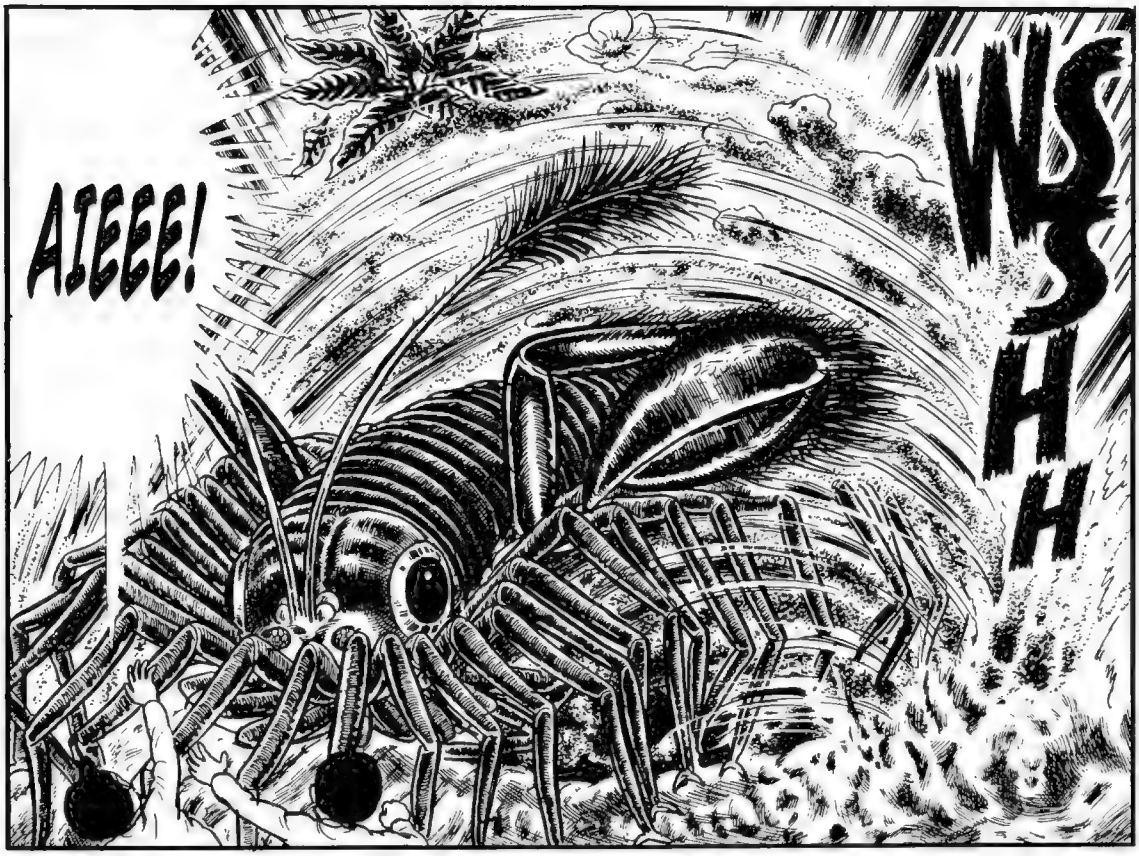
IT'S NOT COMING FROM MY BRAIN!

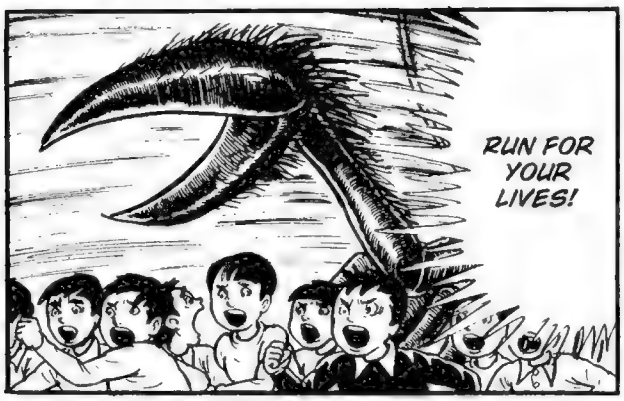
EEYAA!
HOLD ON!

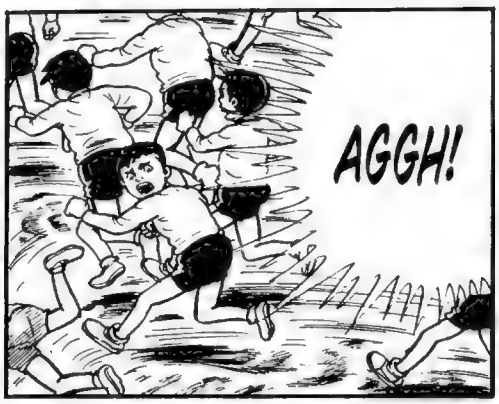

TH-TH-THE MONSTER'S TORN THROUGH THE ROPES! IT'S COMING!

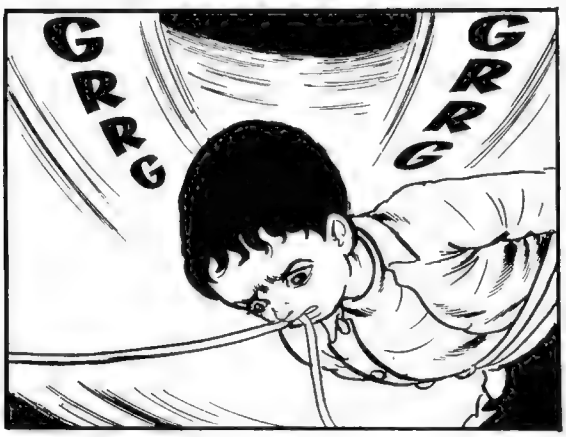

WHAT IF IT *ISN'T* A HALLUCINATION? YOU'LL BE A *MURDERER!*


AGGHH!
SHAA


AIEEE!
WSSHH


RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!


AGGH!


GRRG
GRRG

NO! LET ME GO!
HERE IT COMES!

NO! HELP ME!

I'LL KILL HIM!
G-GIVE IT TO ME!

AIEE!

SNAA
AHH!

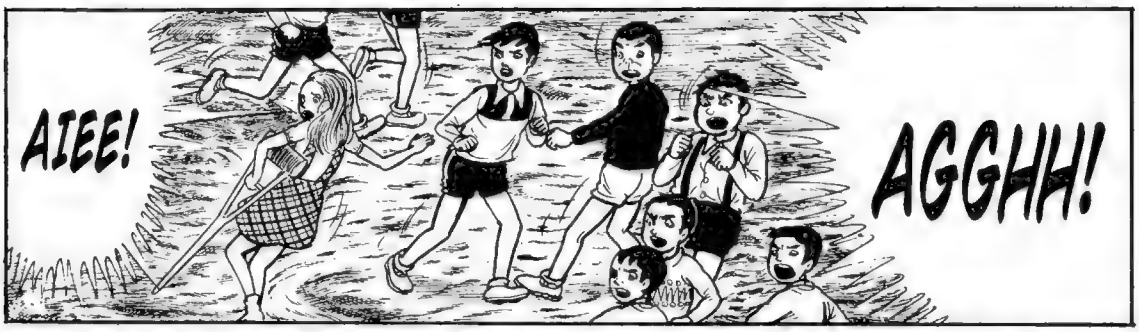
UNTIE ME!
HELP ME!

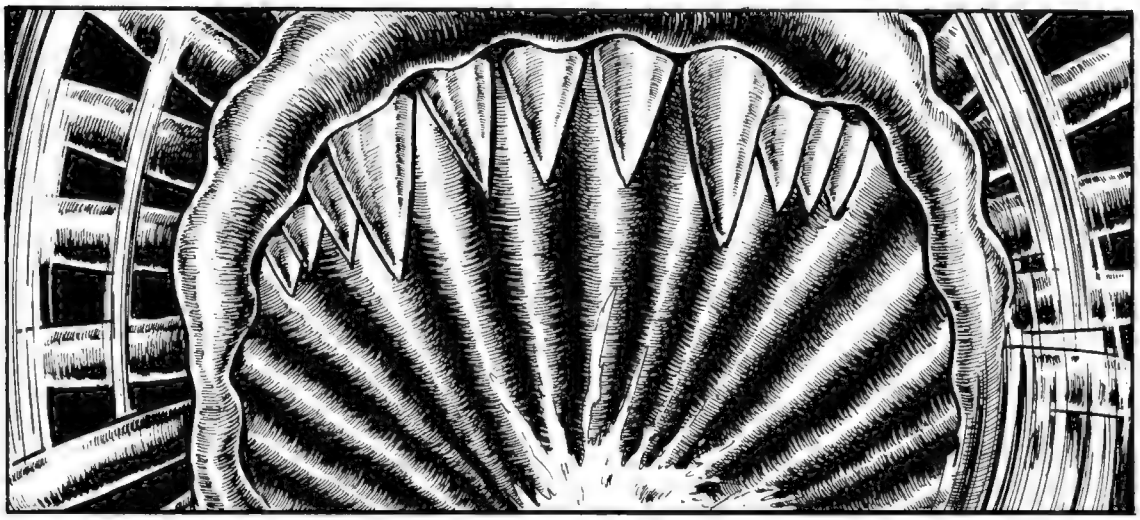
FORGIVE ME!
I CAN'T! I HAVE TO KILL YOU TO SAVE EVERYONE ELSE!
NOOO!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
AGGHH!
THUK

SHAA
GRR

GRAAA

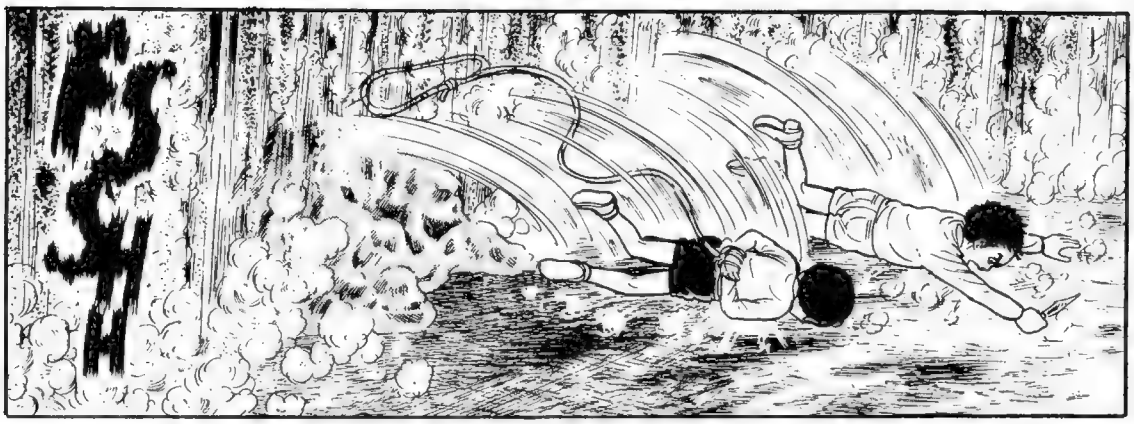
AIEE!!


AIEE!
AGGHH!



GRAA

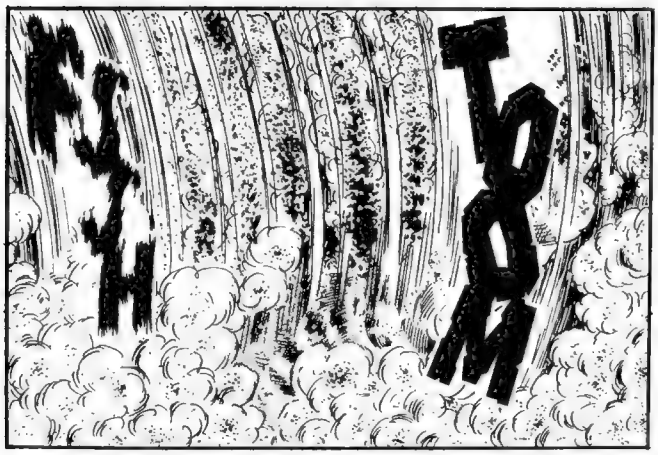
FSSSSH
FSSSSH
FSSSSH
FSSSSH
WHAA
!?

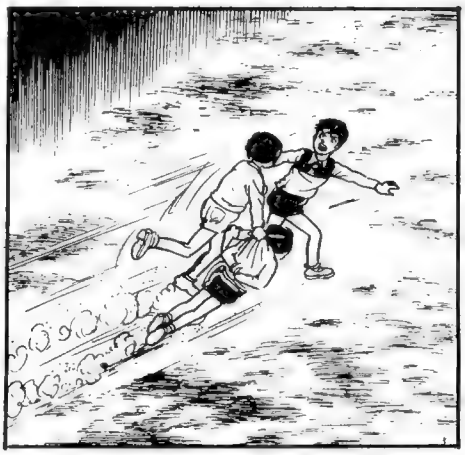

FSH

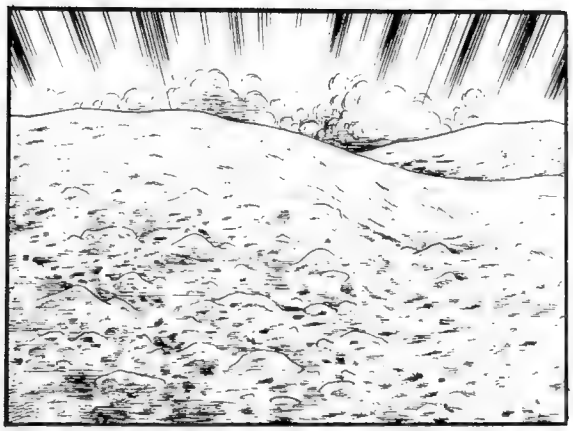
BEHIND YOU!
HURRY!

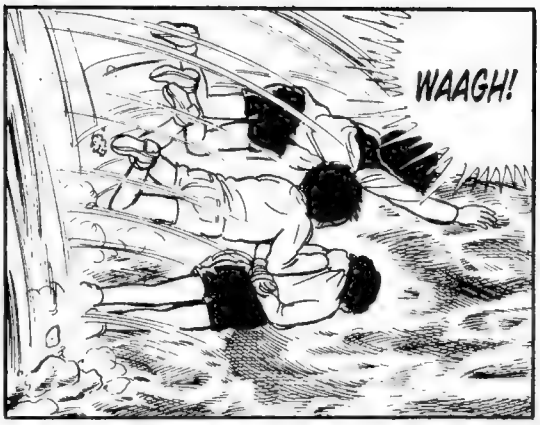
TAKAMATSU, LOOK OUT!
WHOA!

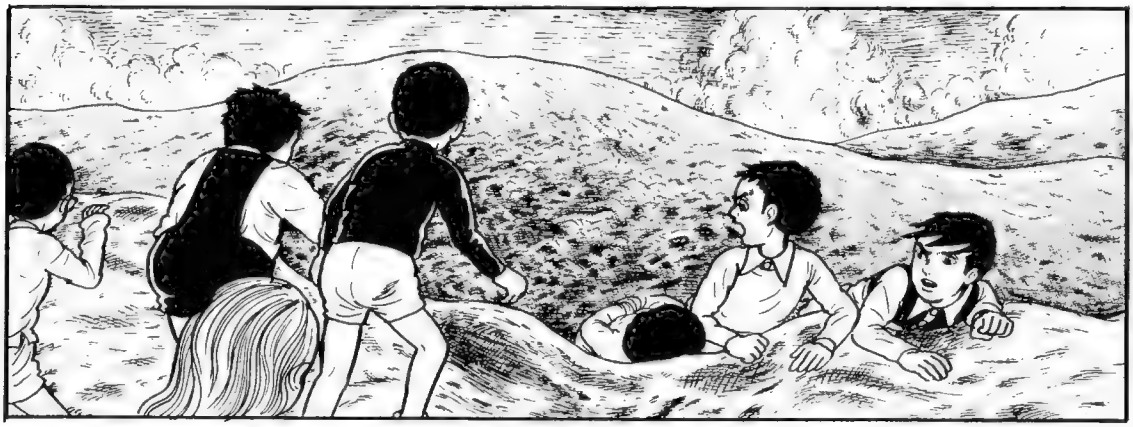
FSH
AGH!

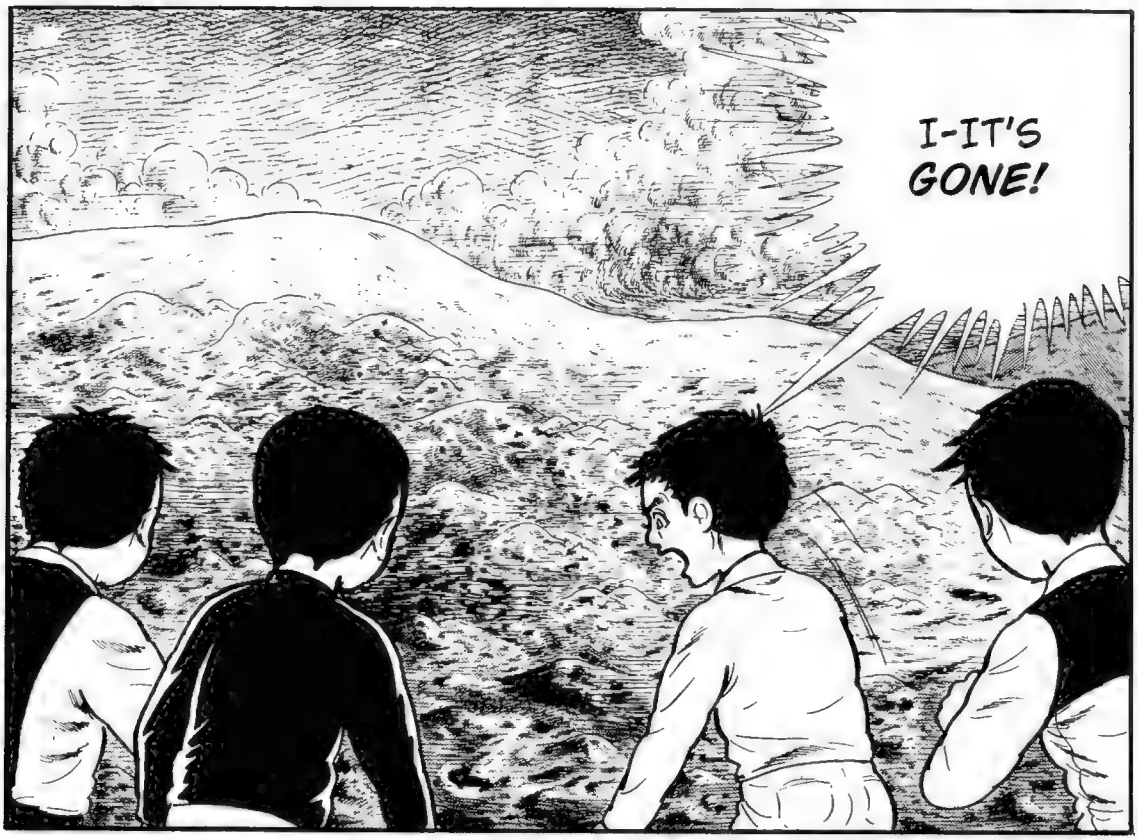

FSH
TB






WAAGH!

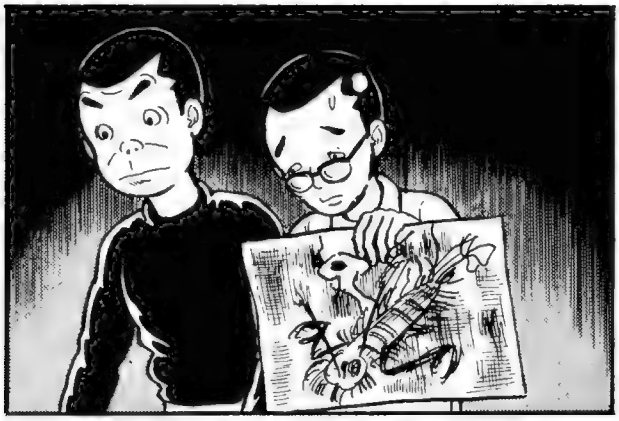


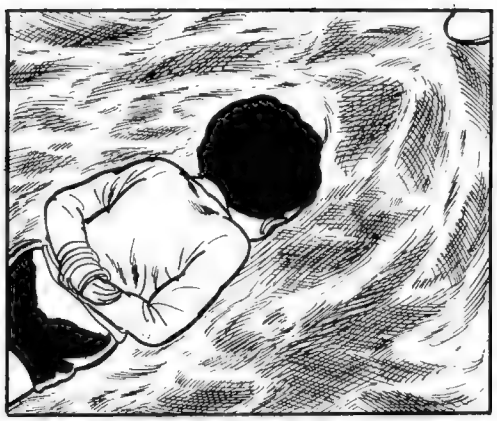

I-IT'S
GONE!

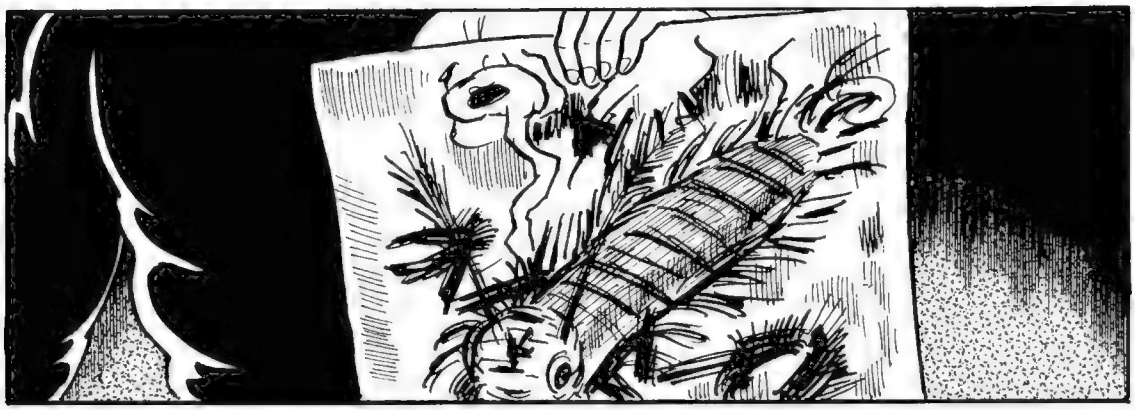
THE MONSTER, THE PLANTS...
IT'S ALL TURNED TO SAND!

SO IT WAS ALL PART OF HIS IMAGINATION!

IT'S ALL VANISHED...







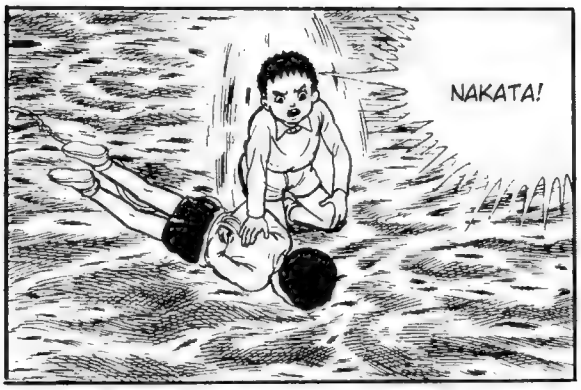
OH, NAKATA ...!

YEAH!

POOR NAKATA. HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE WAS DOING IT. HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO DIE!

WAIT!

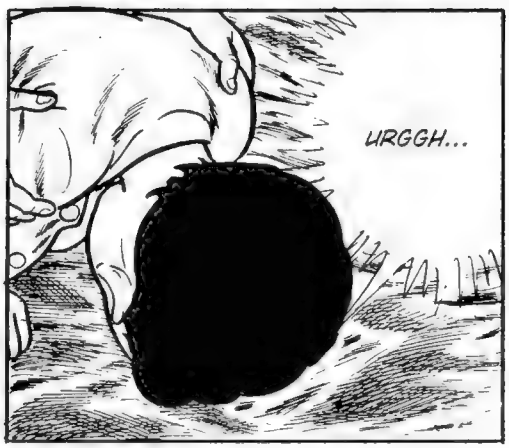
NAKATA ISN'T DEAD!


NAKATA!

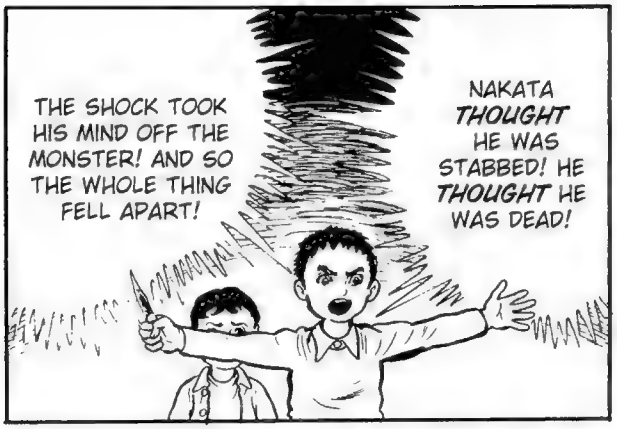
HE ISN'T?!

WAKE UP!

YOU'RE FINE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT! EVERYONE'S ALL RIGHT!


URGGH...

AHH!
B-BUT ...!
I DIDN'T STAB YOU!
B-BUT I THOUGHT...
RIGHT WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO STAB YOU...
HERE'S WHAT I DID!
BAM
I TURNED THE KNIFE...LIKE *THIS!*

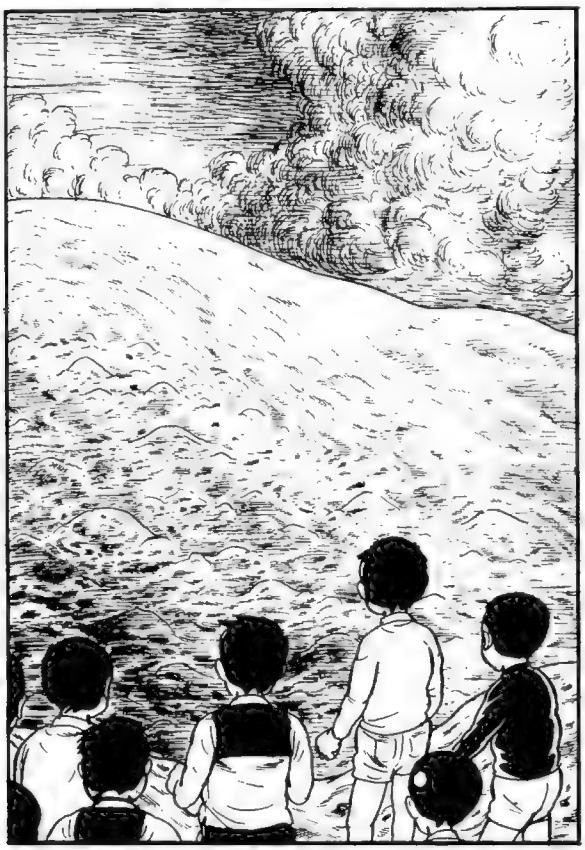

THE SHOCK TOOK HIS MIND OFF THE MONSTER! AND SO THE WHOLE THING FELL APART!
NAKATA *THOUGHT* HE WAS STABBED! HE *THOUGHT* HE WAS DEAD!

WOW!

IT WAS ALL IN YOUR MIND, THE WHOLE TIME.

NOW IT'S JUST LIKE EVERYWHERE ELSE...

BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE CELEBRATING...
WE STOPPED THE MONSTER ...

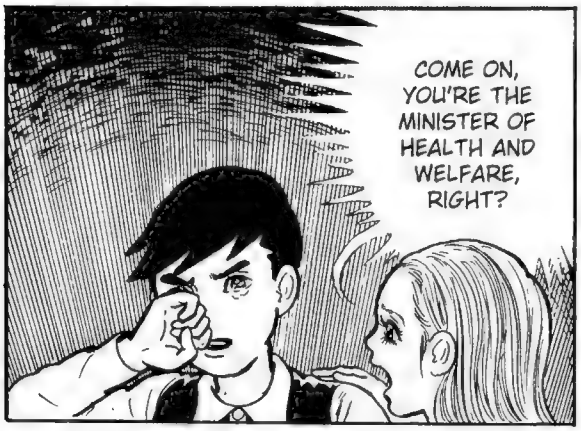


IT MEANS THERE REALLY ARE NO TREES AND PLANTS HERE!

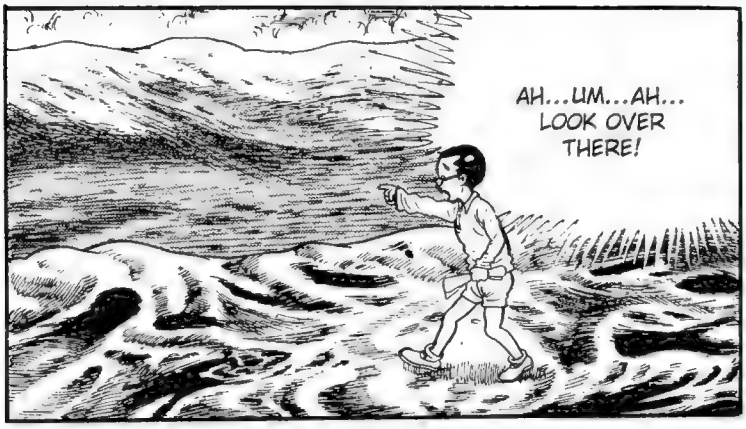
HOW ARE WE GOING TO SURVIVE!?

THE WHOLE WORLD IS DEAD!

SNIFF... SOB...


COME ON, YOU'RE THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, RIGHT?

CHEER UP, OTOMO!

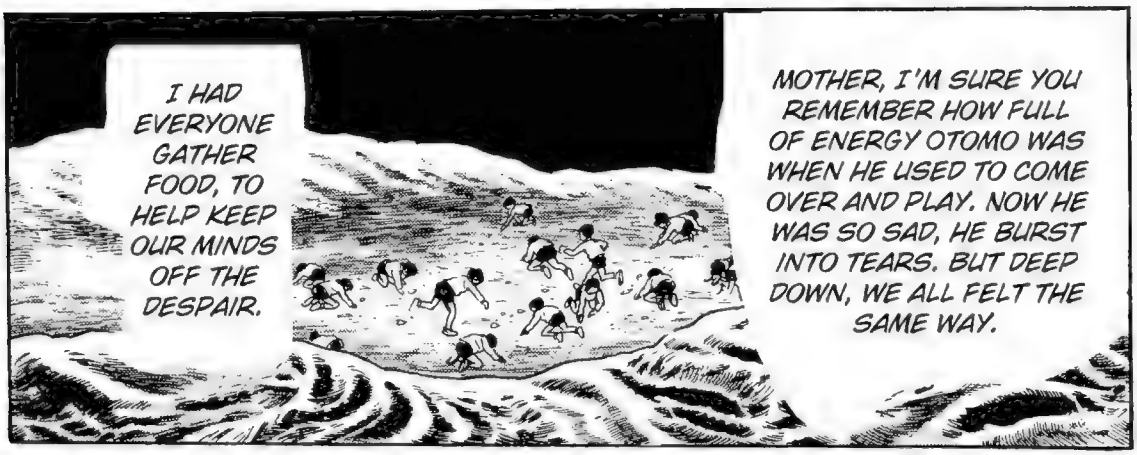

AH...UM...AH... LOOK OVER THERE!

OTOMO!

THE FOOD THE MONSTER "ATE" IS SCATTERED AROUND WHERE IT DISAPPEARED!

YAAY! WE GOT OUR FOOD BACK!

WHAT!?


I HAD EVERYONE GATHER FOOD, TO HELP KEEP OUR MINDS OFF THE DESPAIR.
MOTHER, I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER HOW FULL OF ENERGY OTOMO WAS WHEN HE USED TO COME OVER AND PLAY. NOW HE WAS SO SAD, HE BURST INTO TEARS. BUT DEEP DOWN, WE ALL FELT THE SAME WAY.

HUH?

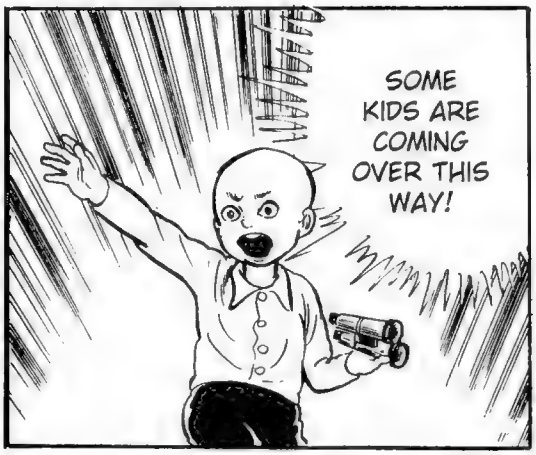
FSH

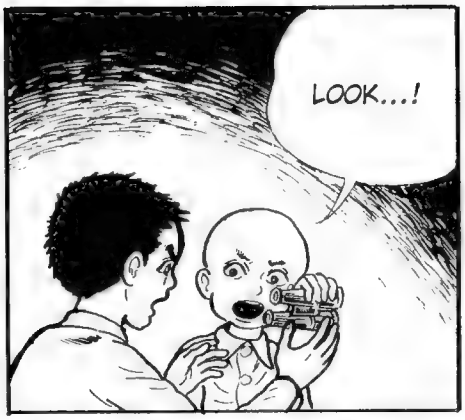
IT MUST BE ONE OF THE MONSTER'S VICTIMS!

SHO! COME QUICK!

A DEAD BODY!

WHY'D THEY COME HERE?
WHO IS IT?

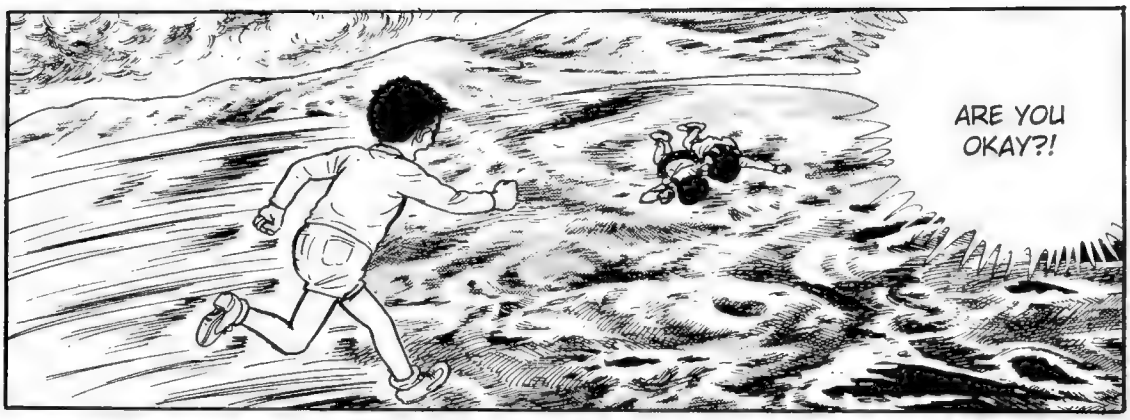

SOME KIDS ARE COMING OVER THIS WAY!


LOOK...!

SHO!

WHAT'S GOING ON, SHO!?
GASP!

WAIT UP!


ARE YOU OKAY?!

TH-THEY'RE DEAD!

HEY!

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED ...?

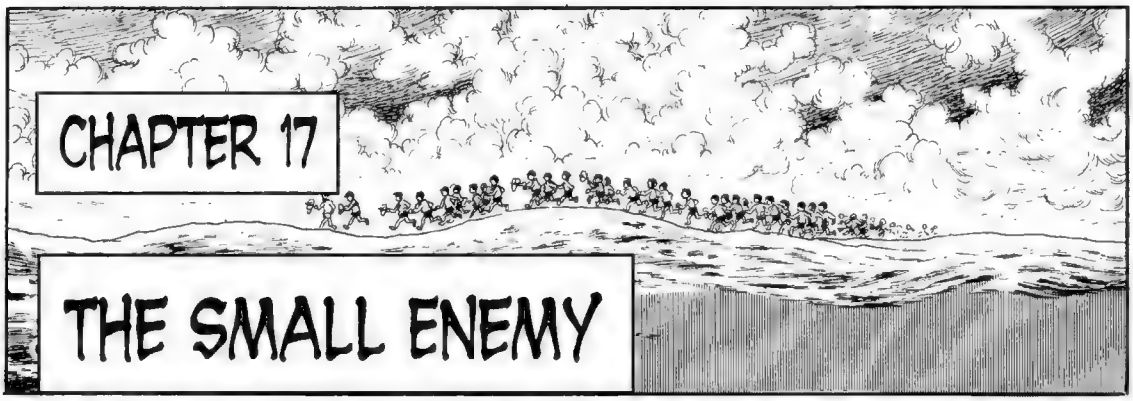
THEY'RE COVERED WITH LITTLE WOUNDS!

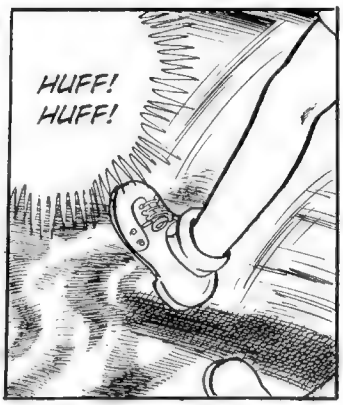
OH MY GOD!

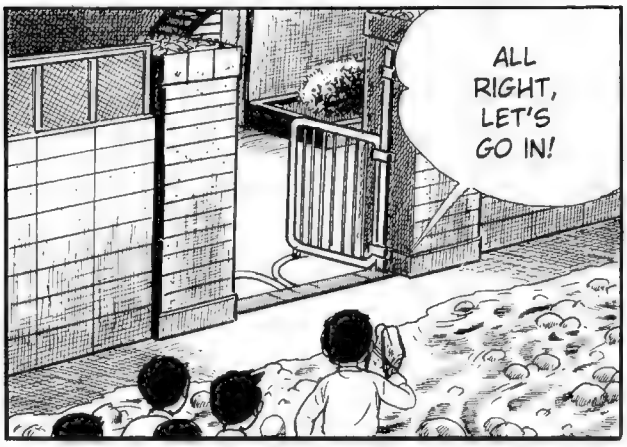
WHAT'S GOING ON, SHO!?

BRING YOUR STONE AXES!!

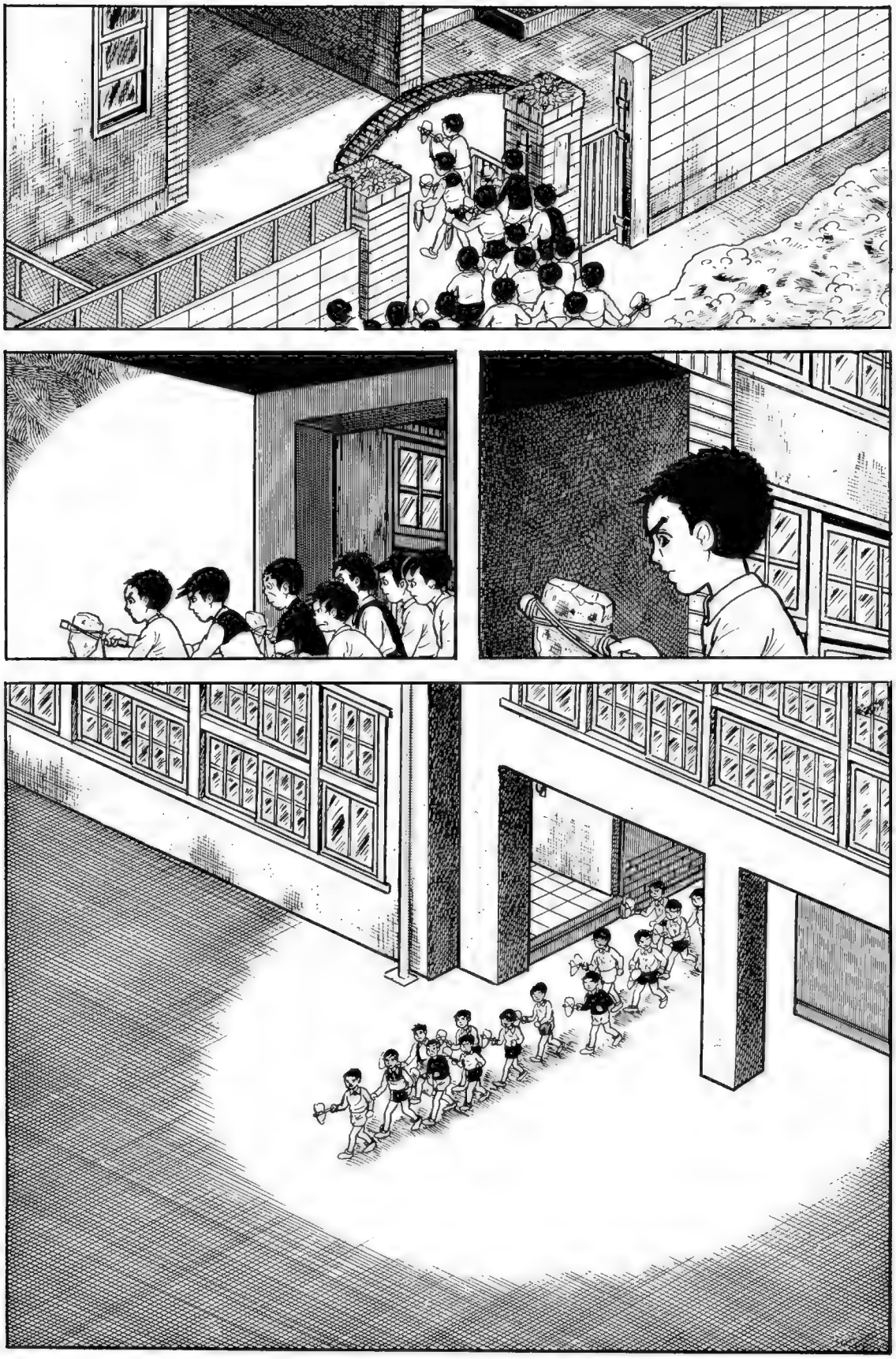
SOMETHING'S WRONG! WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE SCHOOL!


CHAPTER 17
THE SMALL ENEMY

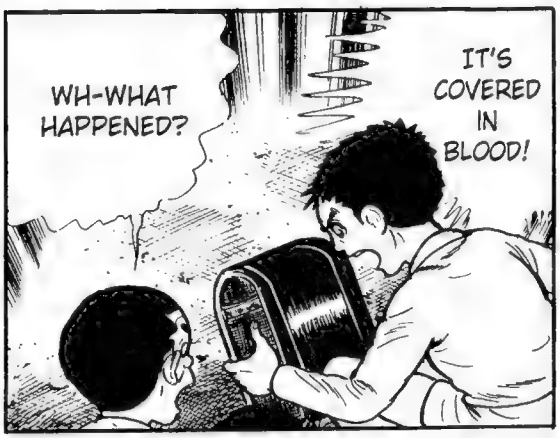

HUFF! HUFF!


ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO IN!

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

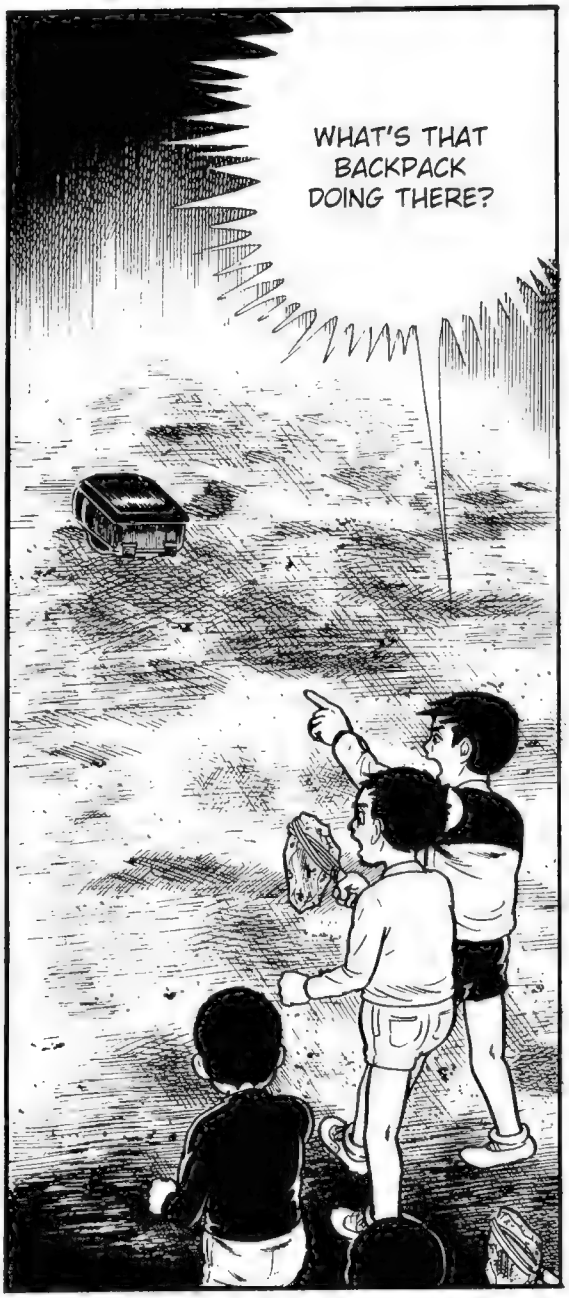


WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE IS EVERYBODY...?


WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S COVERED IN BLOOD!

IS ANYBODY THERE?

OKAY!
THEY MUST BE INSIDE! OTOMO, WE'LL SPLIT UP AGAIN!


WHAT'S THAT BACKPACK DOING THERE?

SHFF
NO ONE!
SAME HERE!
IT'S EMPTY!
LET'S GO UP-STAIRS!
THERE'S NO ONE HERE EITHER!
ME NEITHER! EVEN THE SIXTH GRADE ROOMS ARE EMPTY!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE. HOW ABOUT YOU, TAKAMATSU?

JUST LIKE THE MONSTER!
TH-THEY DISAPPEARED!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHERE DID EVERYBODY GO?
ZSSSHH
TH-THAT'S MY CLASS! I-I'LL GO HAVE A LOOK!
IT'S COMING FROM SIXTH GRADE CLASS FIVE!
ZSSH
WH-WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
KREEK

AGGHK!

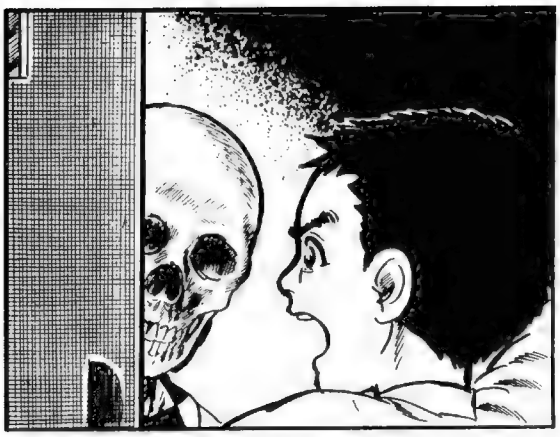
THERE'S NOTHING HERE! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, UEMURA?

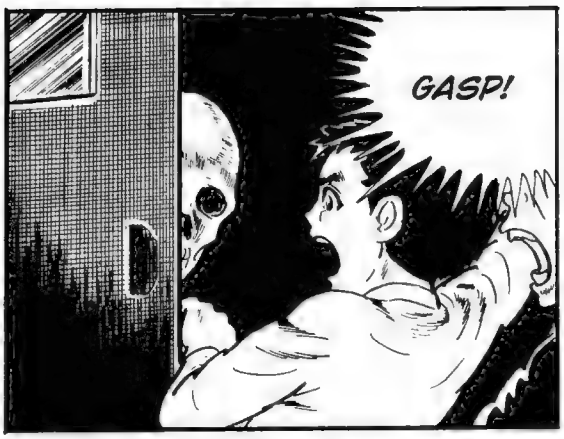
YAAGH

AHGHH

SHFF

WHAT'S WRONG!?




GASP!

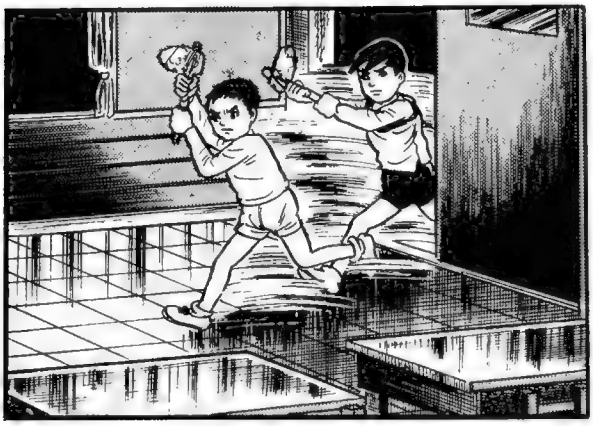
WAAAH!

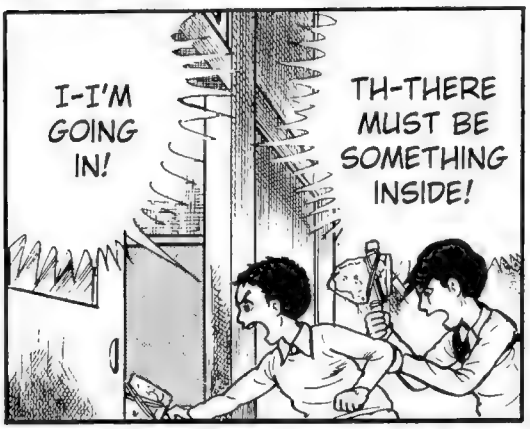
KLUNK

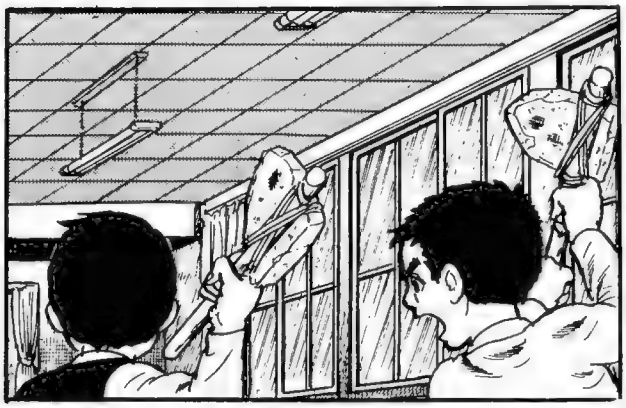
OH MY GOD!

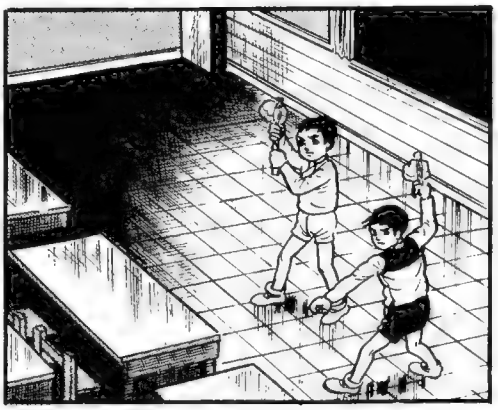
HA KG HH!

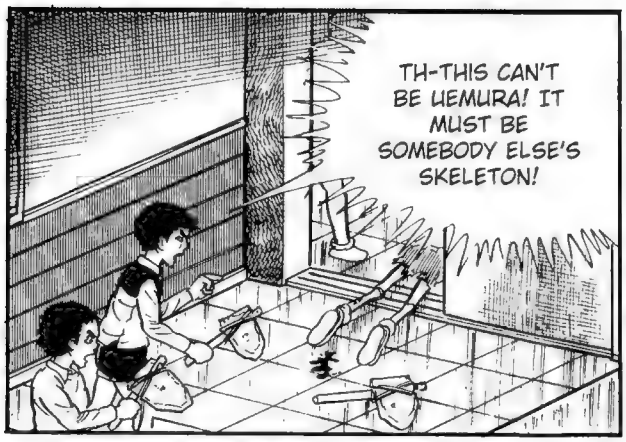
OTOMO ...!
TH-THAT'S UEMURA ...!



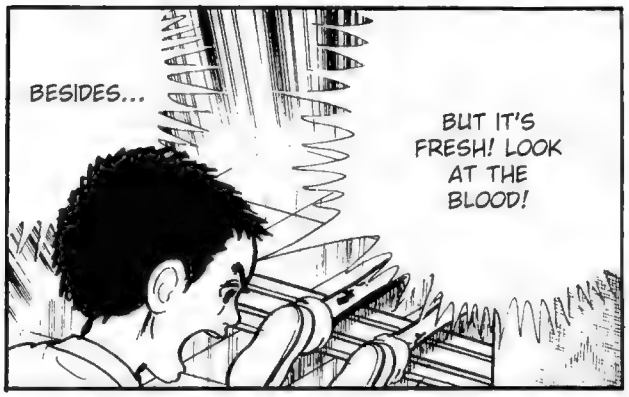

I-I'M GOING IN!
TH-THERE MUST BE SOMETHING INSIDE!






TH-THIS CAN'T BE UEMURA! IT MUST BE SOMEBODY ELSE'S SKELETON!

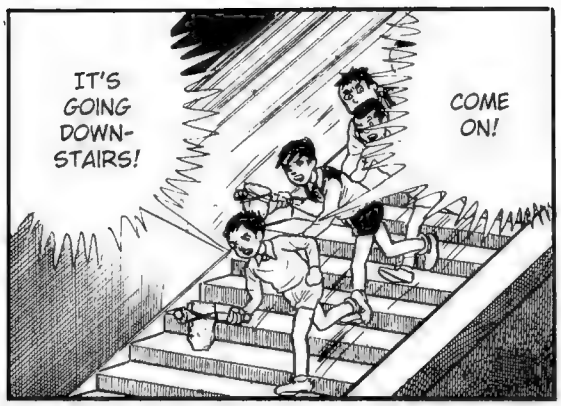
I-IT'S EMPTY!


BESIDES...
BUT IT'S FRESH! LOOK AT THE BLOOD!

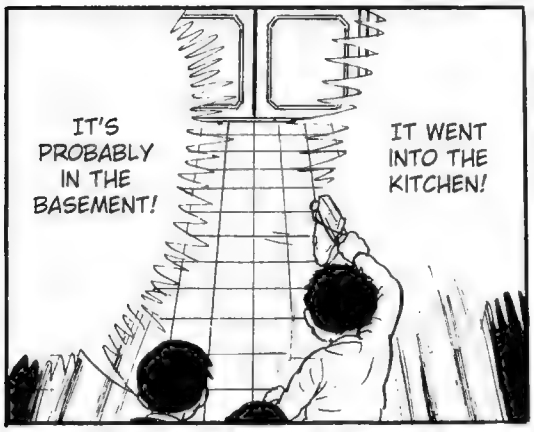
ZSSSHH

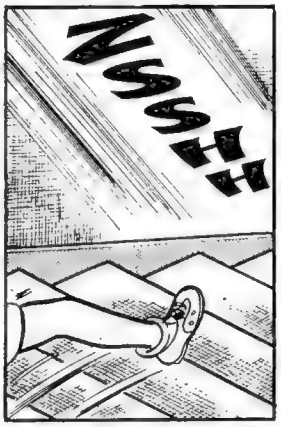
HIS AXE IS ON THE FLOOR AND IT'S WEARING UEMURA'S CLOTHES!

WH-WHAT IS THAT!?
ZSSHH

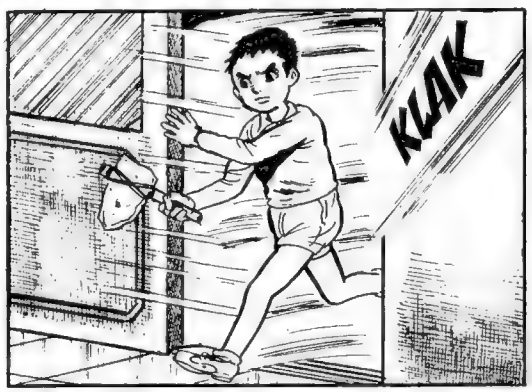

IT'S GOING DOWN-STAIRS!
COME ON!

LET'S FOLLOW IT!
SSSSSH
IT SOUNDS LIKE THE TIDE GOING OUT...!

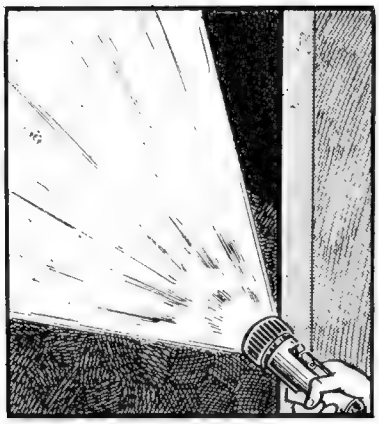

IT'S PROBABLY IN THE BASEMENT!
IT WENT INTO THE KITCHEN!

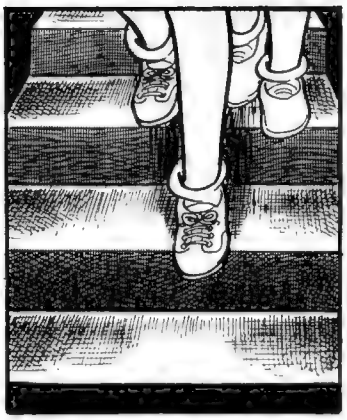

SSSSSH

A-ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD?
KREEK
ARE YOU GOING DOWN THERE!?

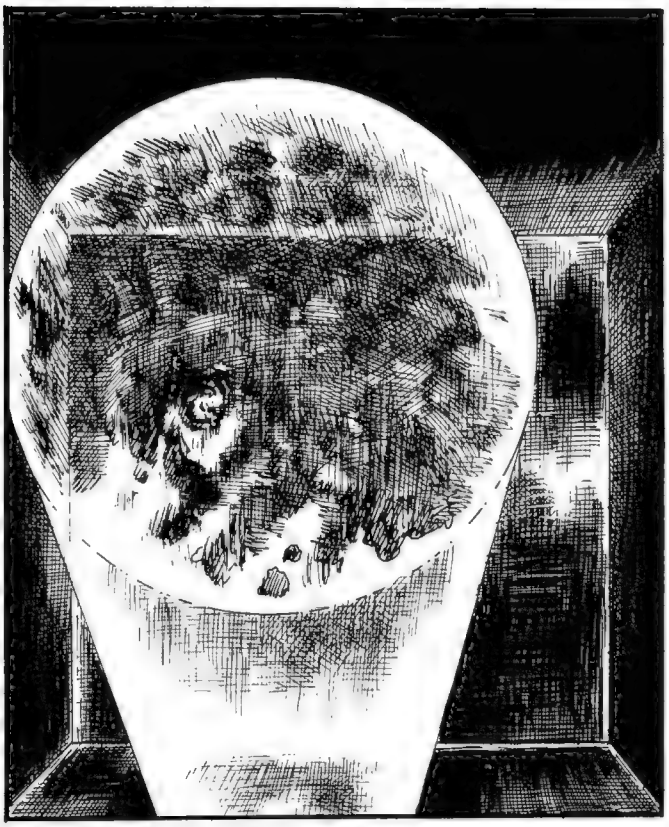

KLAK

THERE IT IS! I NEED A FLASHLIGHT!





THERE'S NOTHING HERE!



PHEW!

WHY!?
STOP! DON'T GO ANY CLOSER!

IT'S JUST A STAIN. IT LOOKS KIND OF WEIRD...

WOW, THAT WAS SCARY!

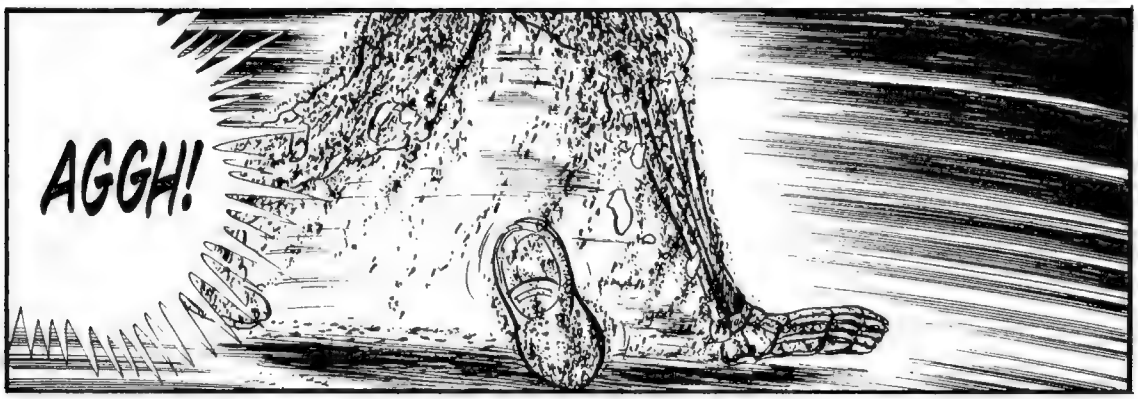
ZSSSH
AGGGH!

ZSSH
AGGHGG!

ZSSH

EVERYONE RUN!

H-HELP ME!
ZSSH
AH!

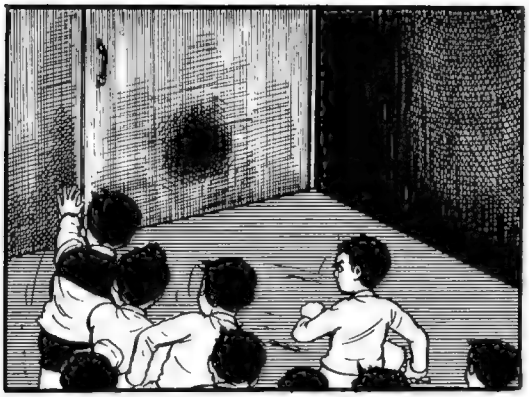

AGGH!

GGG... GGH!

SLAM

NNHAA!

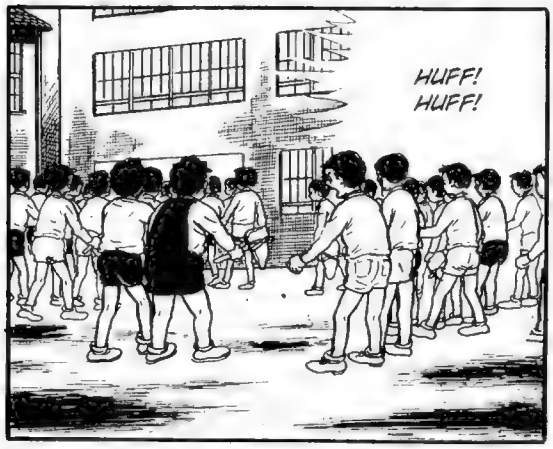
TH-
THEY'RE
EATING
M...
L-LET
ME OUT!

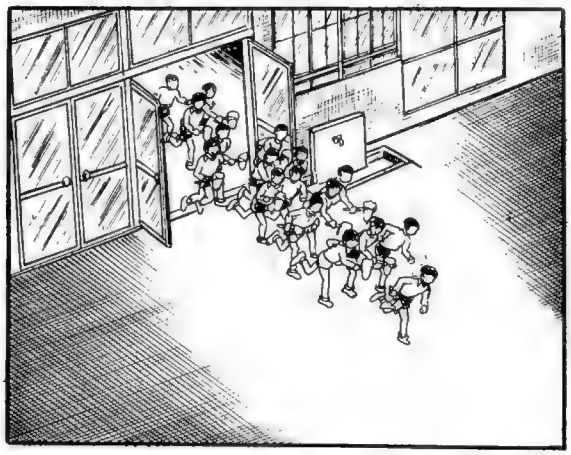


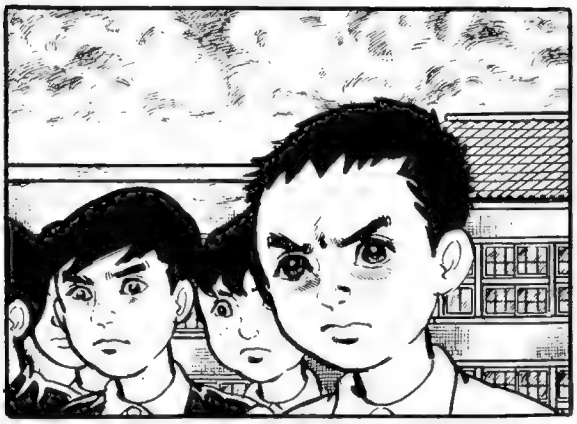
CLANK

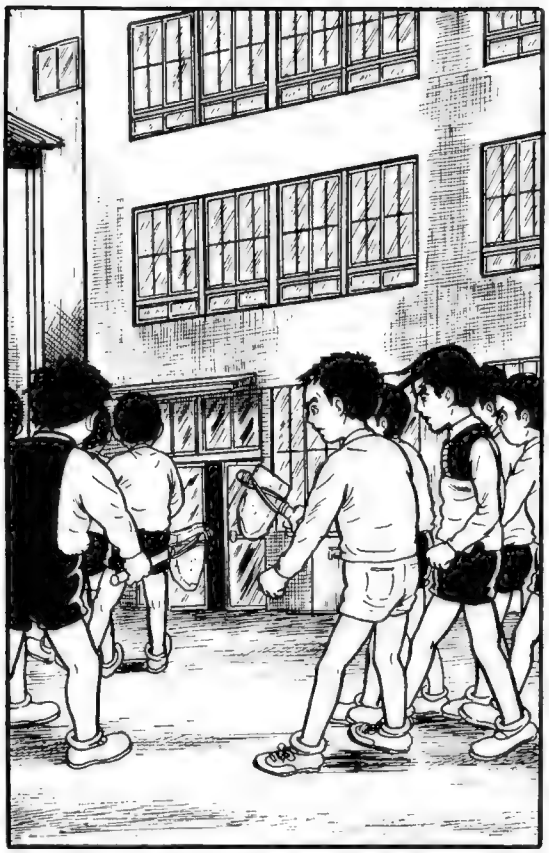
AIEE!

UHAAA!


HUFF!
HUFF!

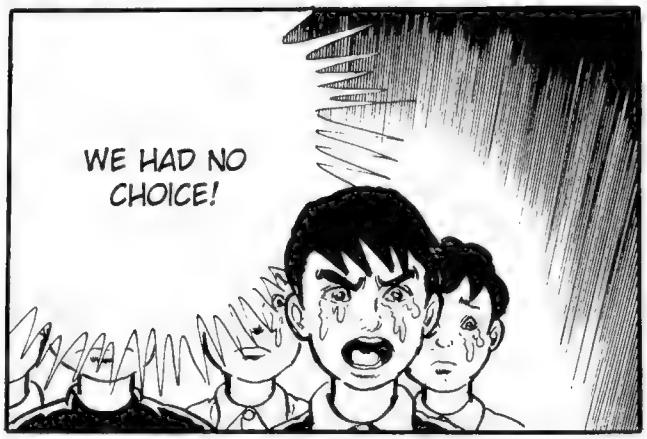


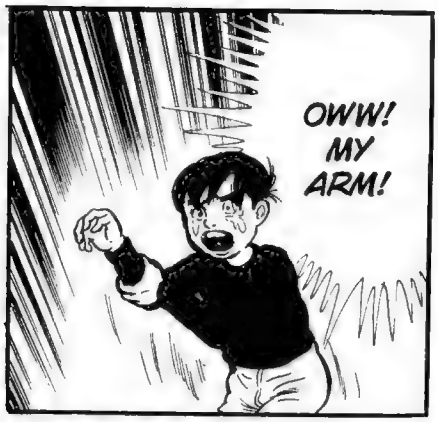




WE SACRIFICED HIM!

OTHERWISE WE WOULD HAVE ALL ENDED UP LIKE HIM!


WE HAD NO CHOICE!


OWW! MY ARM!

ARRGH!

OWW!

SOMETHING'S MOVING AROUND UNDER MY SKIN! IT'S PART OF THAT *THING!*

WHAT IS IT?

KRRCH

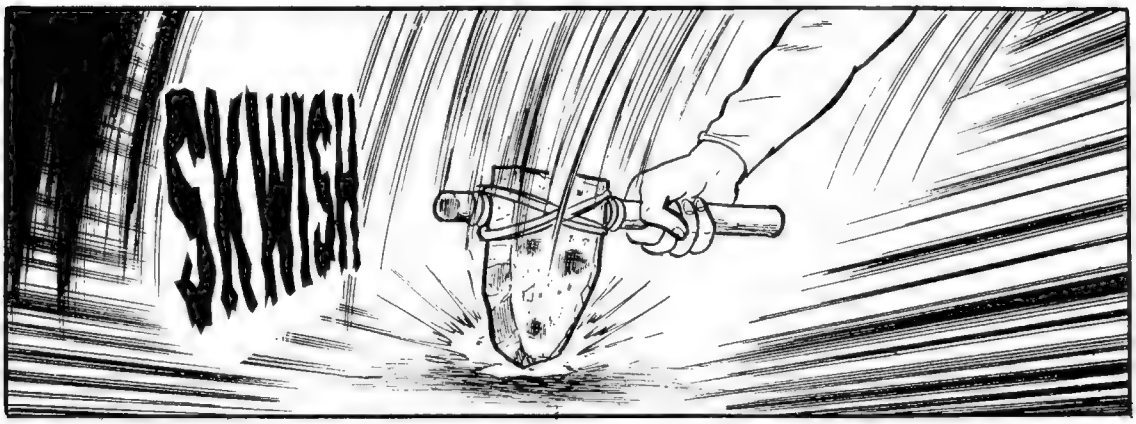
IT HURTS! *IT HURTS!*

AHH!

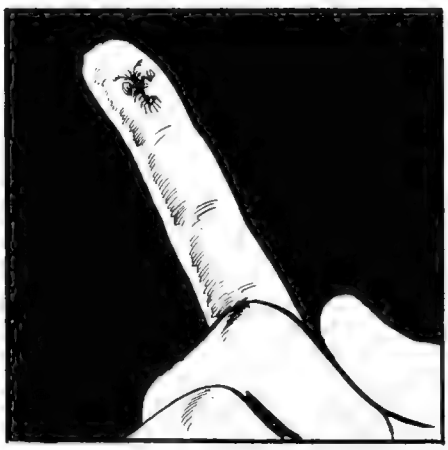
HACK!
AH!

GRRK

I SEE IT!


SKWISH

GASP!



BABIES!

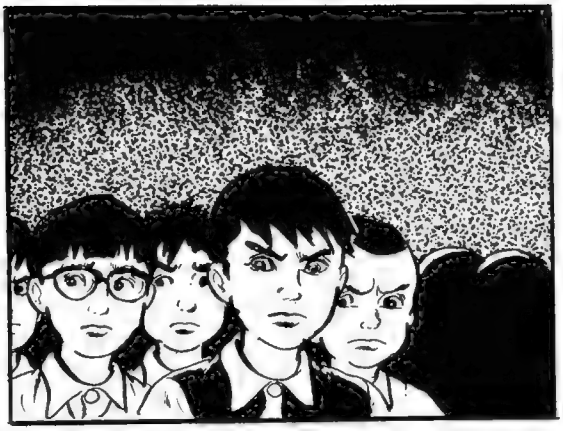
WHAT ?!
THEY'RE OFFSPRING! THEY'RE LITTLE VERSIONS OF THE MONSTER!

I DIDN'T DO IT!

GASP!

I DIDN'T IMAGINE THIS!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! I'M NOT HUNGRY ANYMORE!

THE MONSTER LAID THEM WHEN IT ATTACKED US!
I DIDN'T DRAW THIS! DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY!
NO!
HEY, COME ON, STOP IT!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!

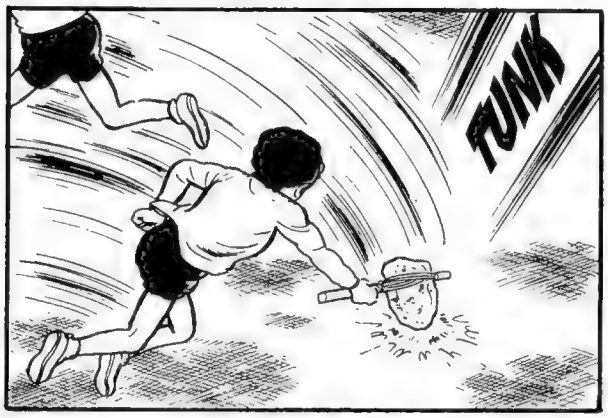


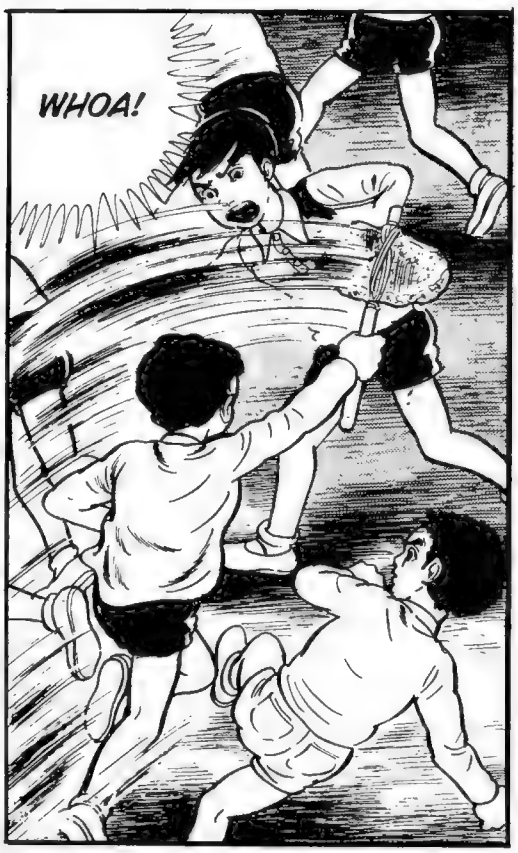
MAYBE THIS IS *ALSO* PART OF HIS IMAGINATION!
NAKATA'S HALLUCINATIONS STARTED THIS!

HOLD ON, EVERYONE!

URRGH ...!

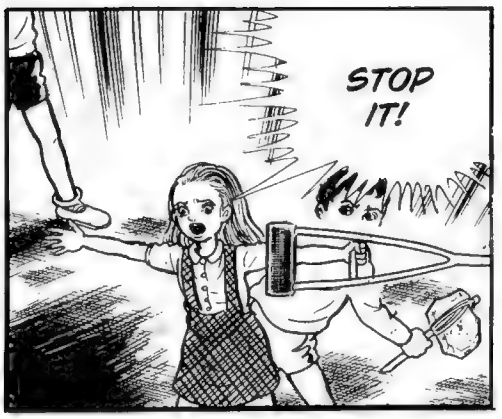
STOP!

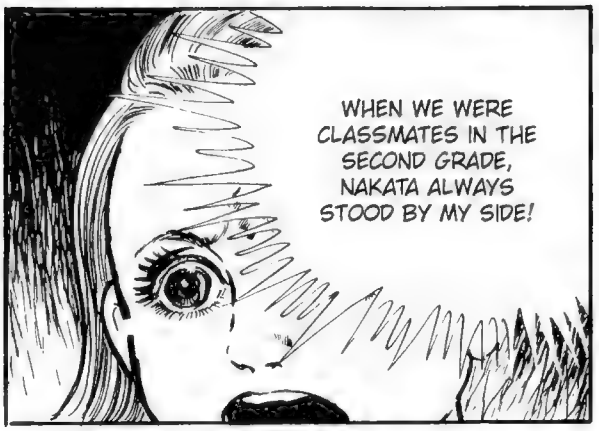

TUNK


WHOA!

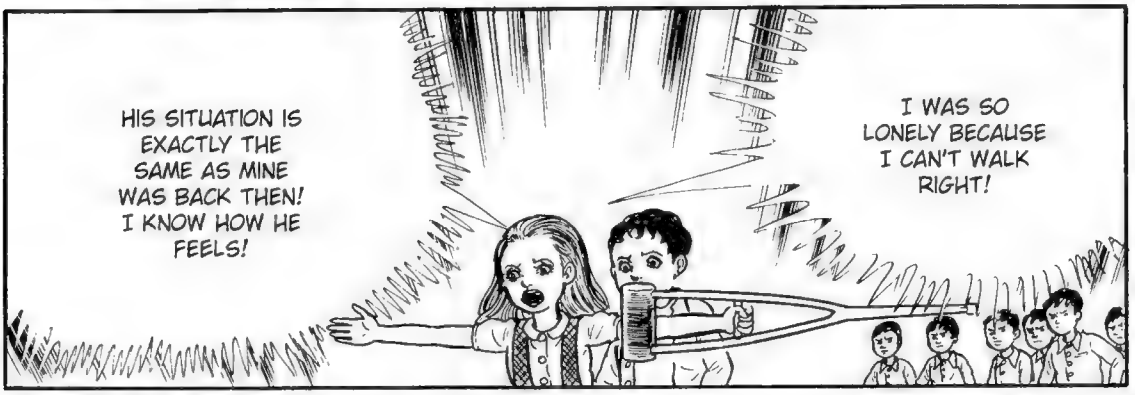
WE HAVE TO KILL HIM!
HE'S THE ONE WHO'S DOING THIS!

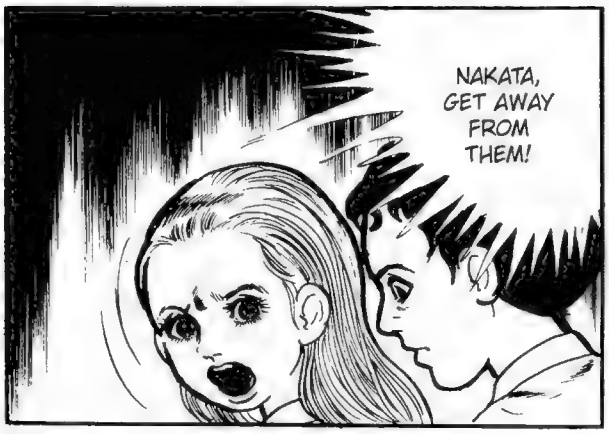
CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME!


STOP IT!

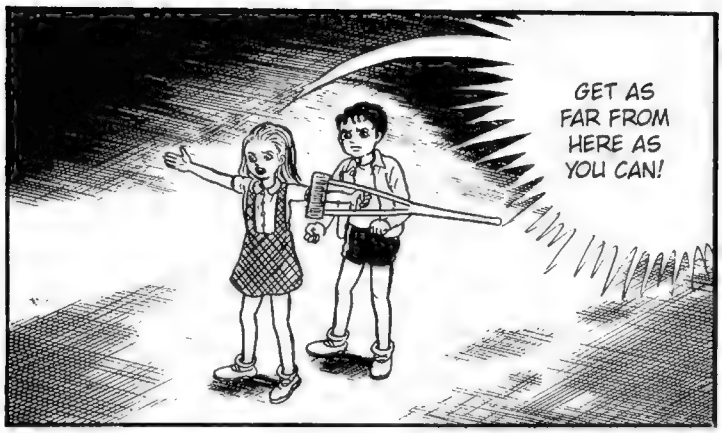

WHEN WE WERE CLASSMATES IN THE SECOND GRADE, NAKATA ALWAYS STOOD BY MY SIDE!

IF YOU KILL NAKATA, YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME TOO!


HIS SITUATION IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS MINE WAS BACK THEN! I KNOW HOW HE FEELS!
I WAS SO LONELY BECAUSE I CAN'T WALK RIGHT!


NAKATA, GET AWAY FROM THEM!

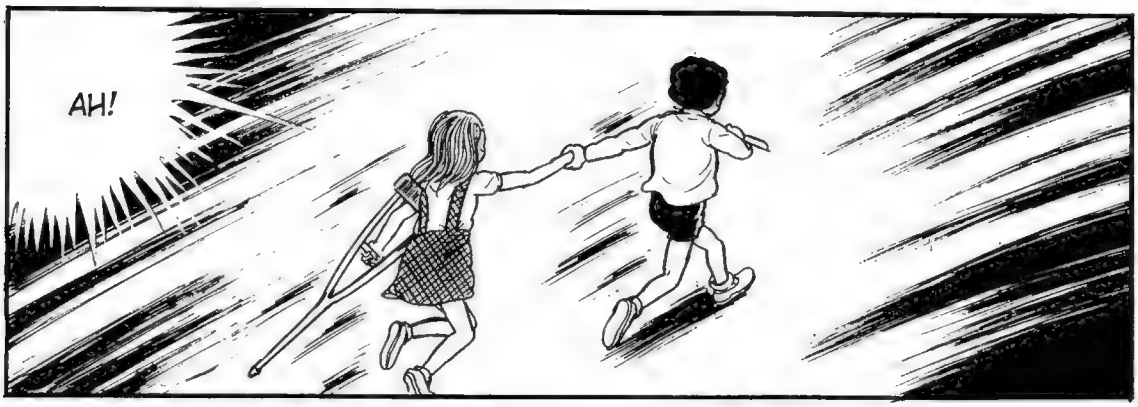
I WON'T LOSE SUCH A PRECIOUS FRIEND BECAUSE OF THIS!


GET AS FAR FROM HERE AS YOU CAN!

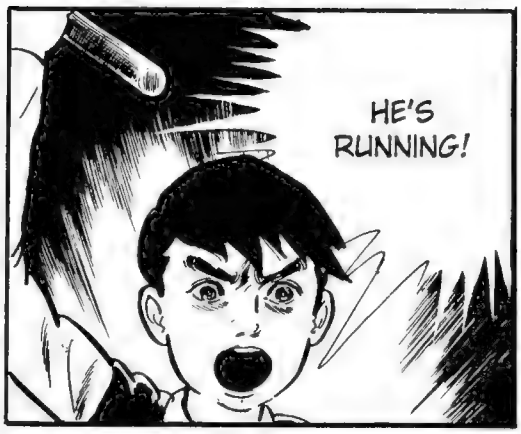
HURRY!
NISHI!

RUN, NAKATA!

KILL HIM!
NAKATA'S THE REAL MONSTER!


AH!

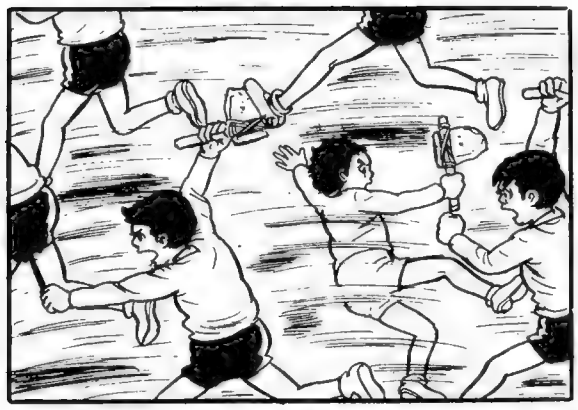
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY. WE HAVE TO KILL HIM!

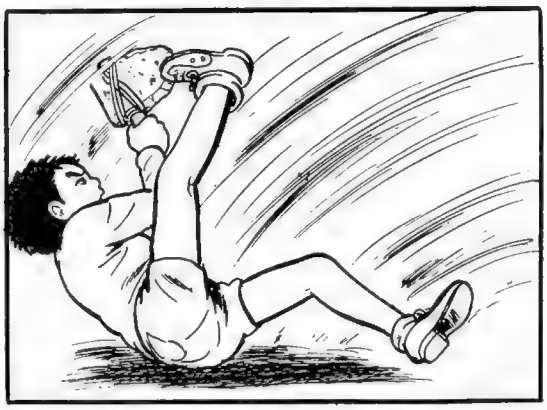

HE'S RUNNING!

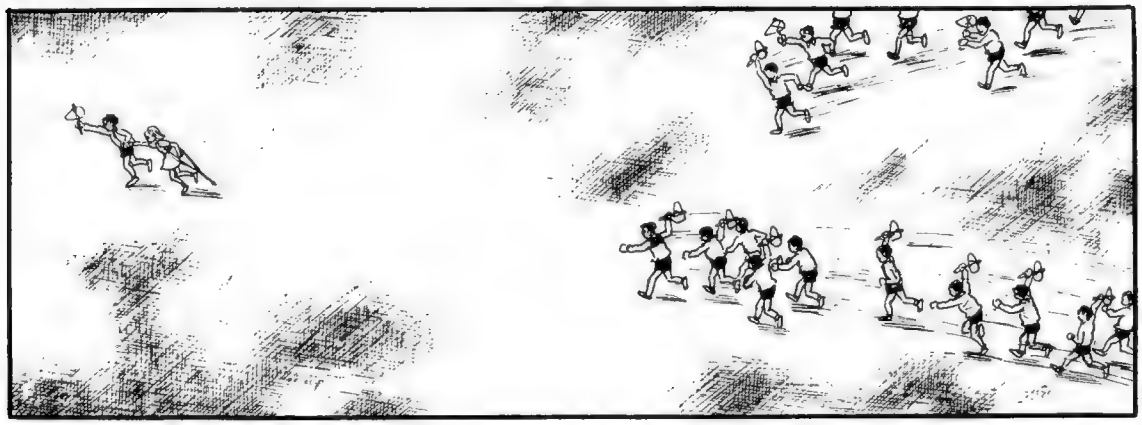
STOP IT, EVERYONE!

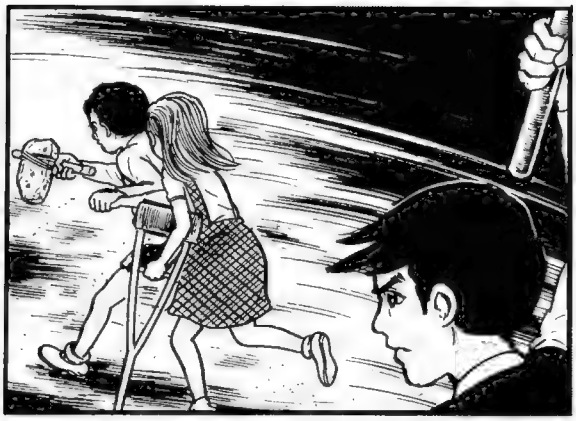
STOP IT, OTOMO!

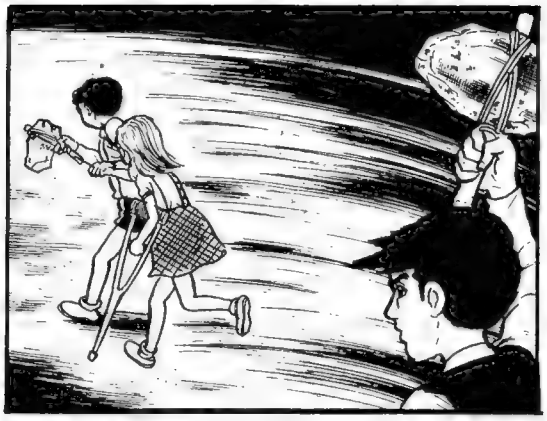
AGH!
WHAM
GET OUT OF THE WAY!

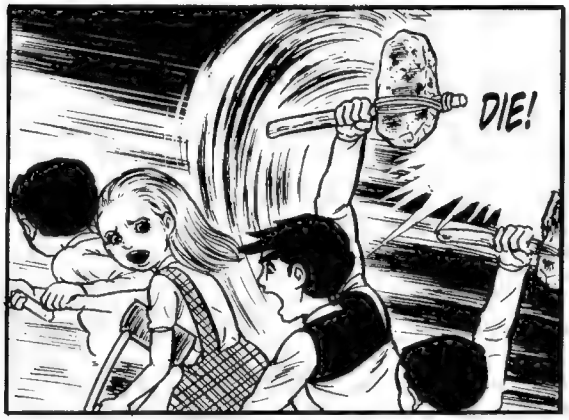


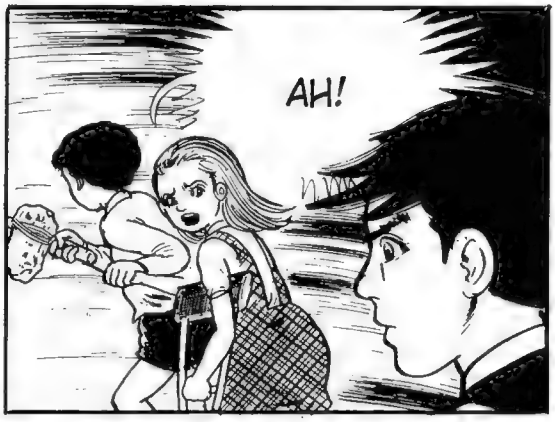


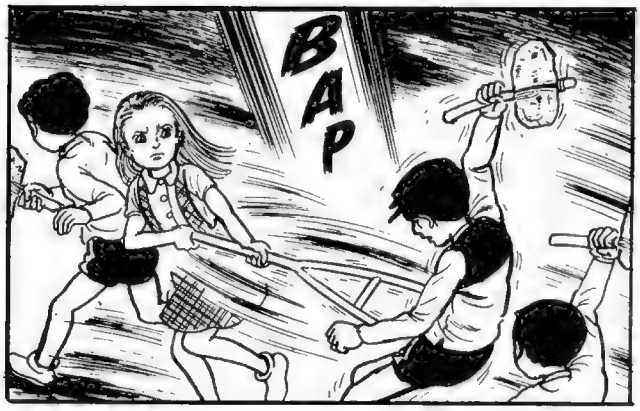


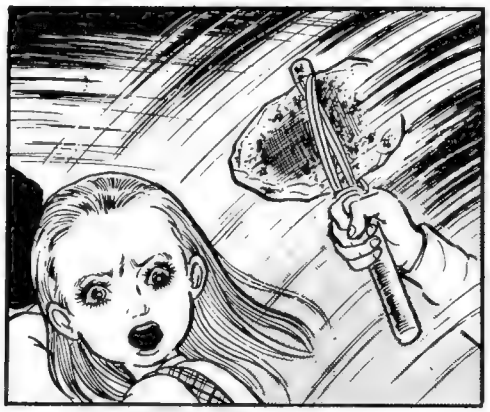


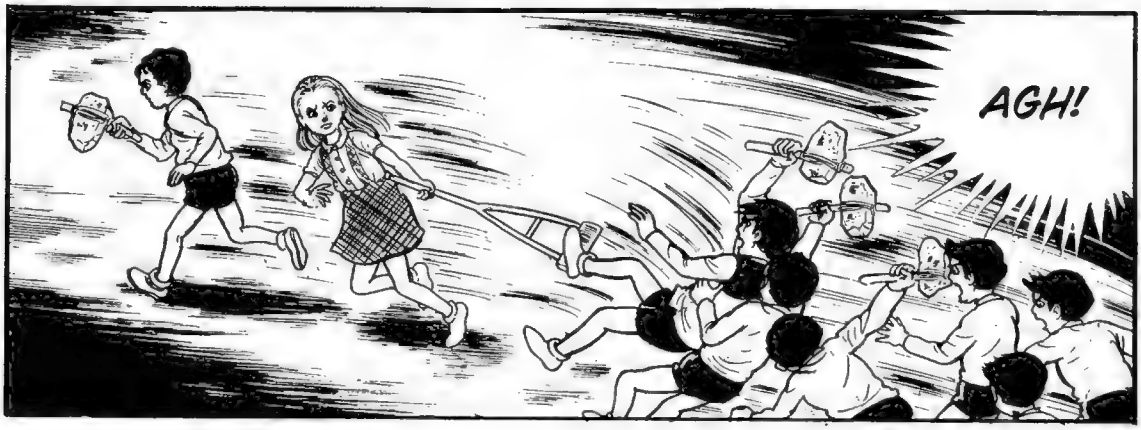



DIE!


AH!

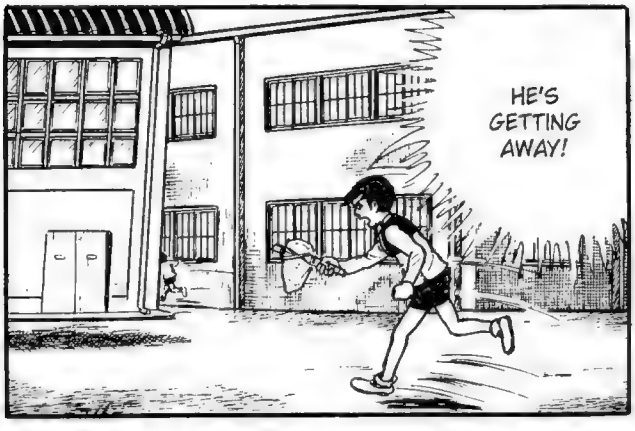

BAP



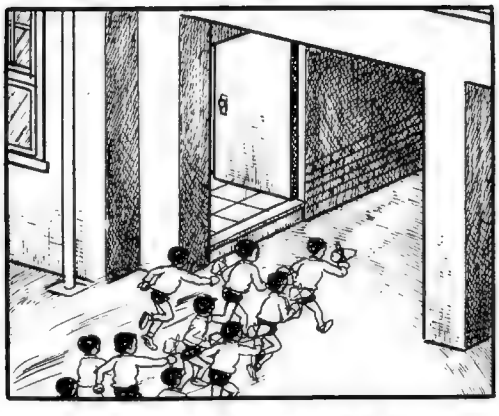

AGH!

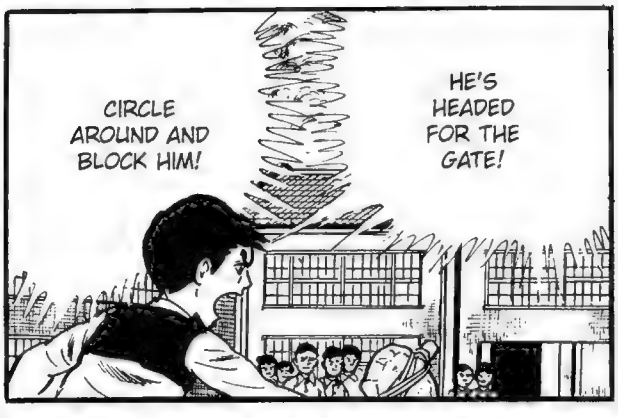
NISHI!

RUN!


HE'S GETTING AWAY!

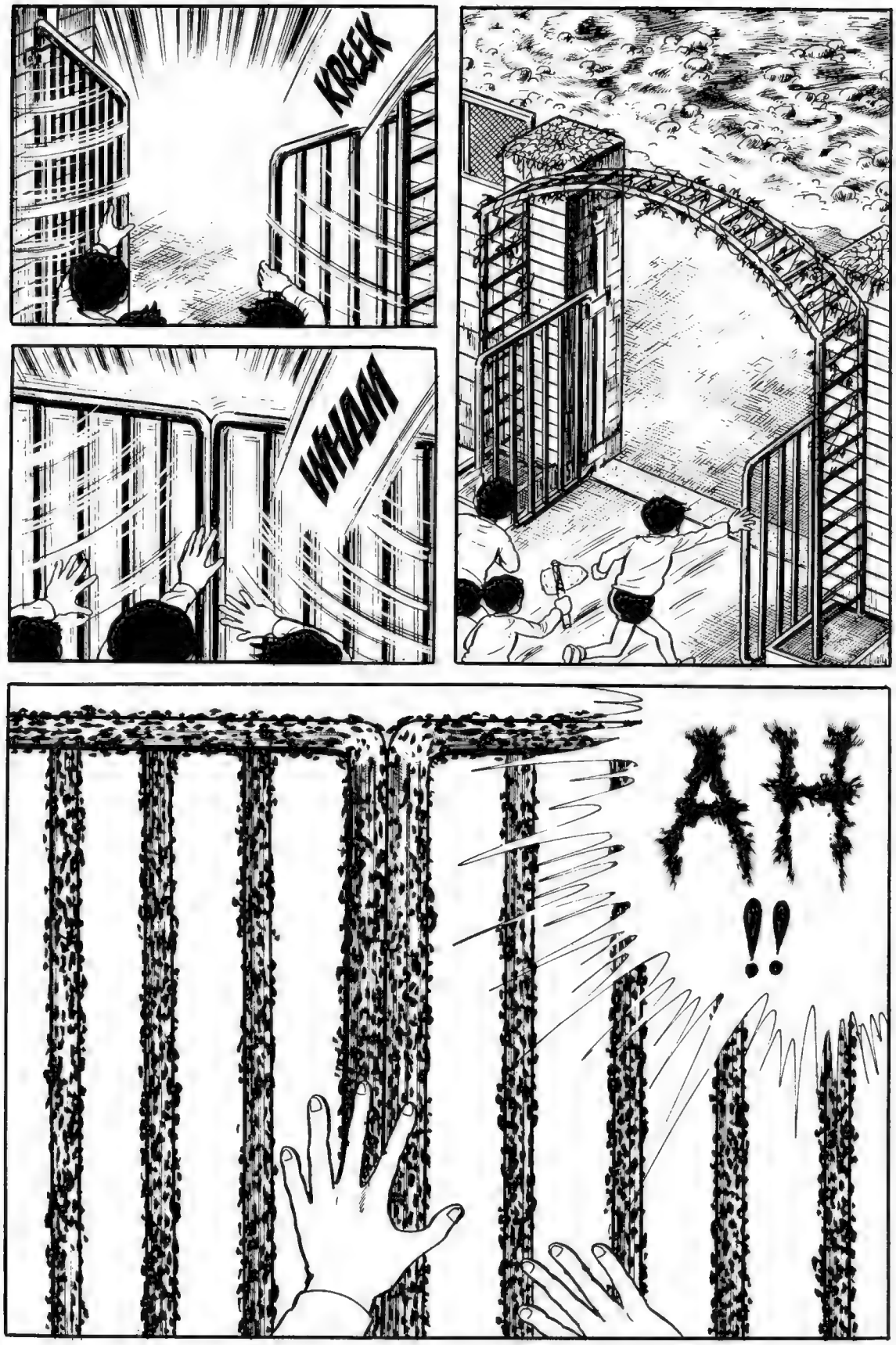
DAMN IT!

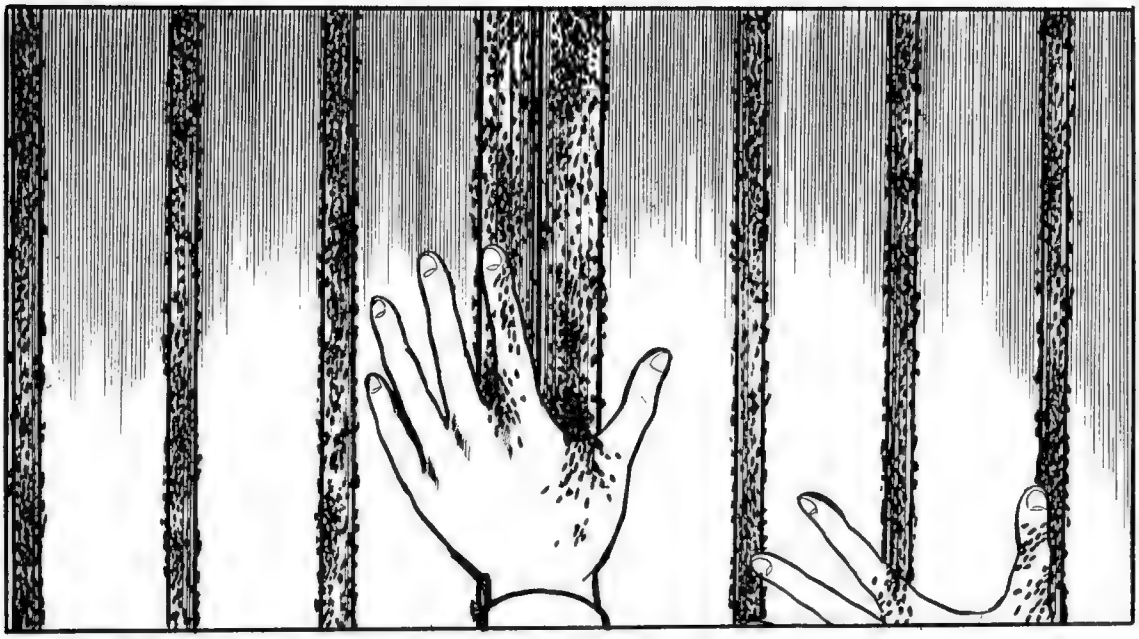



CIRCLE AROUND AND BLOCK HIM!
HE'S HEADED FOR THE GATE!

AGH!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!

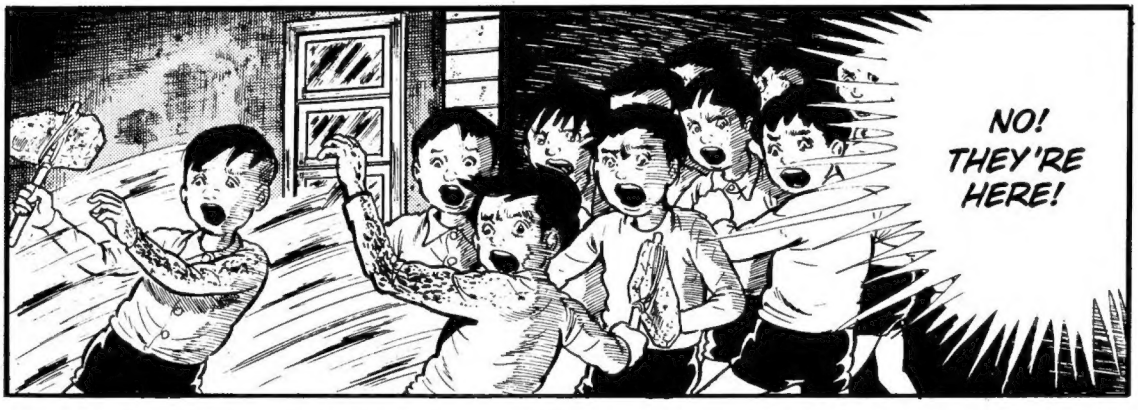
YOU CAN'T LET THEM KILL HIM!
STOP IT!


KREEK
WHAM
AH
!!



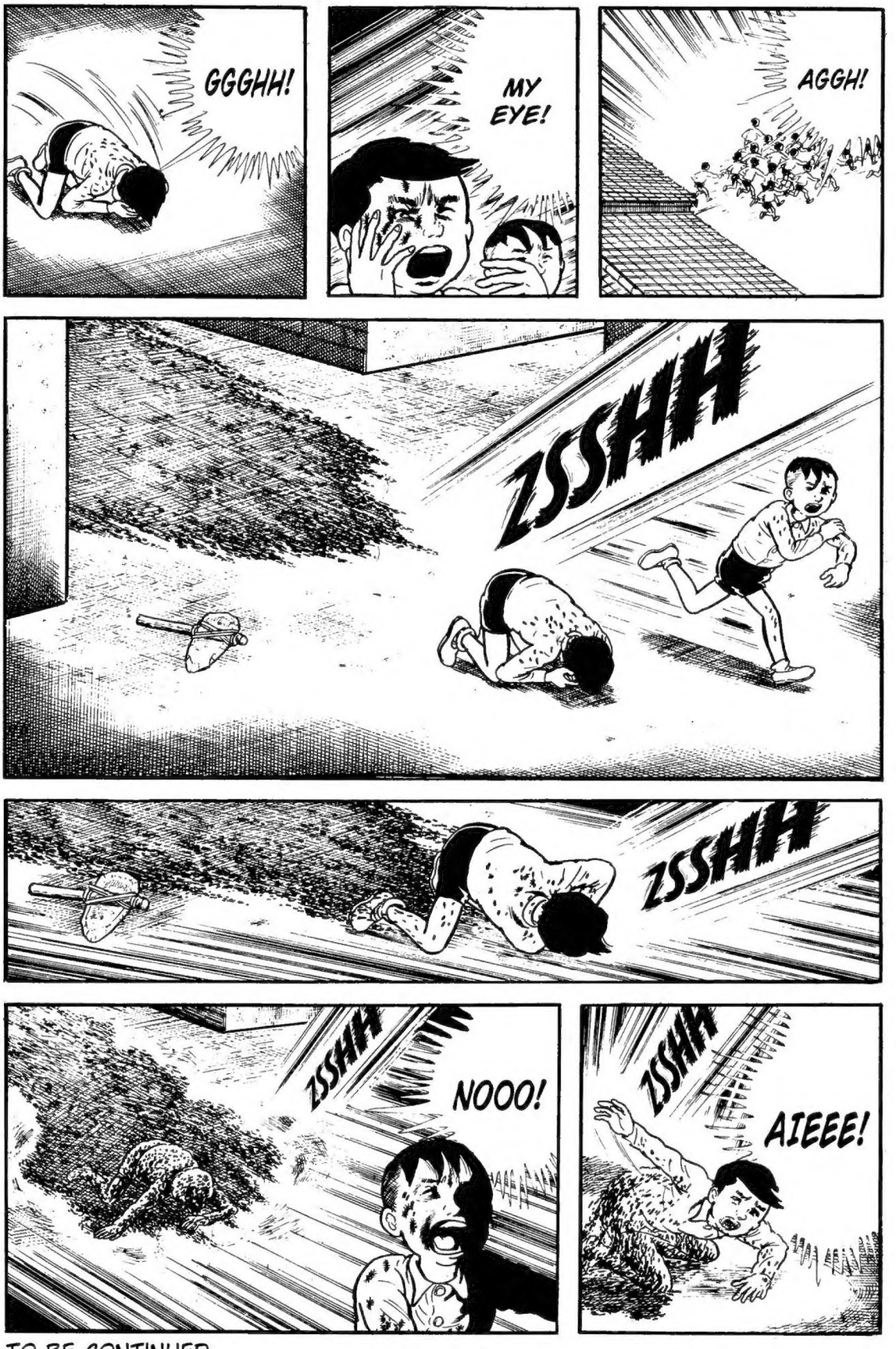
AIEE!

ZSSHH
ZSSHH


NO! THEY'RE HERE!

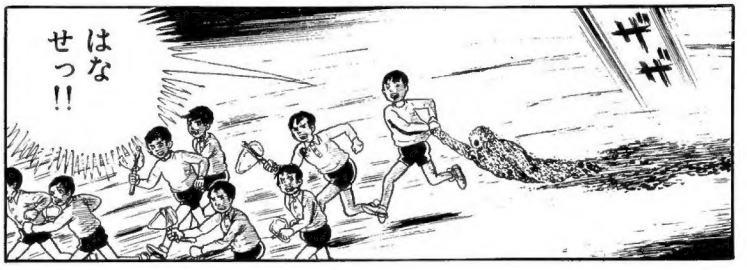
AGGGH!

EEYAA!



TO BE CONTINUED...

IN THE NEXT VOLUME...



As the flesh-eating insects swarm closer, the students run for their lives...but how can they save themselves from the horrors produced by Nakata's mind?

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